Gov't, NDF panels meet in Amsterdam to talk peace

Story on PAGE A2

PMA plebe found dead in Kennon Road ravine

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A 17-year-old cadet at the Philippine Military Academy was found dead in a 70-meter-deep ravine off Kennon Road on Thursday night. He had been missing for 10 days.

Cadet Fourth Class Jomel Ariel Valen-

PMA/A19

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Nigerians take 2 Pinoy oil workers hostage

LAGOS—Three oil workers in the Niger Delta—two Filipinos and a German—have been kidnapped by Nigerians who are holding them for ransom, company and navy sources said Friday.

The hostage-taking is only the latest crisis to hit the oil industry in Africa's largest exporter of crude oil, which has been plagued in recent months by fatal accidents, unrest,

NIGERIANS/ A7

De Castro, Roco top poll

FPJ 3rd, GMA 4th, Lacson 5th in SWS survey

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BROADCASTER Sen. Noli de Castro remains the frontrunner in the latest survey of presidential voting preferences but former senator and education secretary Raul Roco could catch up to him if President Macapagal-Arroyo does not run as promised.

De Castro, who continues to be an ABS-CBN television talent, showed a narrow lead over Roco in a Social Weather Stations survey that asked respondents who they would vote for if presidential elections were held today.

The SWS survey, conducted from May 28 to June 14, showed De Castro obtaining 22 percent, Roco 19 percent, and movie star Fernando Poe Jr. 16 percent.

Ms Macapagal was the fourth choice, with 15 percent.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said this was to be expected as the President was "not running."

"My take on that is that there are those who are die-hards (for Ms Macapagal) and no matter what the President said they are determined to include her," Bunye said.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson got 12 percent, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. 4 percent, Sen. Loren Legarda 3 percent, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. 2 percent, and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. one percent. Some 5 percent of the respondents were undecided.

De Castro was also the most popular choice for vice president, enjoying a rather large lead over second favorite Legarda.

De Castro got 25 percent of the votes for vice president, followed by Legarda at 13 percent, Sen. Juan Flavier 12 percent, Roco 11 percent, Sen. Gregorio Honasan 9 percent, Magsaysay 8 percent, Lacson 8 percent, Senate President Franklin Drilon 6 percent, and Pimentel 5 percent.

"If President Arroyo continues to stay out of the race, then Senator De Castro's lead would shrink since he is not as strong as Mr. Roco as the second choice of Macapagal-Arroyo voters," the SWS explained.

If Ms Macapagal does not run, the expected outcome would be: 24 percent for

DE CASTRO/ A6

AWARDS FOR EDITORIAL EXC
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Supported by:
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INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot raises two of the four journalism awards won by the INQUIRER in Hong Kong Thursday night. DANTE PERALTA/ PINOY ABROAD

BEST IN ASIA

PDI wins 4 journalism awards in HK

HONG KONG—The Philippine Daily Inquirer won two major awards and two honorable mentions in the Society of Publishers in Asia (Sopa) 2003 Editorial Excellence Awards.

"Abadilla 5: Story out of martial law pages" won the Excellence in Specialized Reporting award in category B, the award for local newspapers.

The INQUIRER special report was about five men whose tortured confessions resulted in their doubtful conviction by a trial court.

Sopa, which recognizes excellence in journalism in Asia, cited the "Abadilla 5" as a "strong series of major national interest." It noted that the series upheld the editorial objectives set by the INQUIRER.

The five-part series, which came out on Dec. 10-14, 2002, was written by Stella Ruth O. Gonzales, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nancy Calauor-Carvajal. INQUIRER managing editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco was the project editor.

The INQUIRER also won the Best Opinion Piece in category B for "Remembering," written by Conrado de Quiros in his column "There's the Rub" on Sept. 10, 2002.

"Remembering," Sopa said, was "a highly impassioned and thought-provoking appeal that describes the importance of keeping a broad-ranging perspective on the events of 9-11, and emphasizes the need to sustain independent thinking, even in the face of intense pressure to fit the emotional and political responses in a pre-conceived framework.

"Seeing the world with American Eyes," written by Randy David in his INQUIRER column, "Public Lives," on

INQUIRER/ A18

Malaysian envoy sees peace deal in 90 days

By Norman Bordadora
in Manila
and the PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE STALLED peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front may restart "within days," Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik said yesterday.

The Malaysian government, which is hosting the talks, hopes that a peace agreement would be reached in 90 days, the envoy told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. But he said Kuala Lumpur would continue to host the talks even for a longer period.

"[The two sides] have reached a stage where there is enough confidence and the conditions are conducive," he said.

Taufik also expressed the hope that "no Buliok happens next week"—a reference to the military offensive on and subsequent hostilities in the Buliok complex, a marshy area straddling the provinces of North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

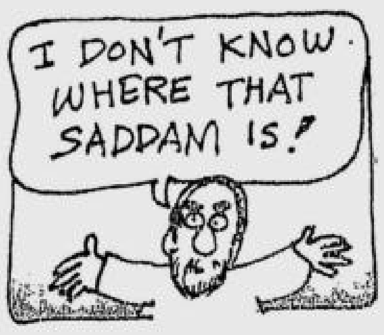
"If there are no problems, they should reach [an agreement]," he said. "Because before Buliok, they were very close to reaching a final agreement."

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced on Thursday that the talks might resume on July 1.

Taufik said Kuala Lumpur wanted MILF leader Salamat Hashim to lead the negotiations for the rebels, and requested the Philippine government to recall the warrants of arrest for Salamat and other leaders of the secessionist group.

"I expect that the government is doing

MALAYSIAN/ A18


I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT SADDAM IS!

Iraq's 'Comical Ali' reemerges on Arab TV

DUBAI—Saddam Hussein's wartime information minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, who earned the nickname "Comical Ali" during the Iraq war for his wildly implausible claims of victory, appeared on Arab television on Thursday to say he knew nothing about the whereabouts of his former boss and that he had surrendered to US troops only to be freed.

Sahaf, 63, became an unlikely media star during the war, winning his stripes as a hero to many in the

IRAQ'S/ A17

'Swift, forcible action' vs rebels

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and TJ Burgonio

THE PRESIDENT ordered "swift and forcible action" against New People's Army rebels who killed 17 people—including the wife of a soldier—during Thursday's massive raid on a remote military outpost in Eastern Samar.

"I am directing the military and police to combine their intelligence resources so that we can obviate the element of surprise that is being used to our disadvantage," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement a day after about 200 rebels launched the biggest NPA attack in more than a decade.

"We have the duty to protect our own far-flung military and police outposts with forward intelligence coverage," Ms Macapagal said. "Meanwhile, I have also directed that these fresh waves of attacks be dealt with swiftly and forcibly."

But communist spokesperson

SWIFT/ A18

NADINE, daughter of Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, sits on the floor as senators take turns in extolling her lolo, Sen. Rene Cayetano. JESS YUSON

'My dad told me: You must take me home'

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

WHEN he learned that his stomach cancer was incurable, the late Sen. Renato Cayetano asked his eldest child to take him home.

"I am going back to my country," lawyer Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, speaking yesterday at necrological rites in a packed Senate session hall, quoted her father as saying. "My dad took my hand, and told me, 'You must take me home.'"

The eulogy delivered by Pia as her three brothers—Pateros Rep. Allan Peter, Muntinlupa Councilor Rene Carl and Edgardo Lino—stood behind her was punctuated with tears and sobs. But the message came through as clear as her father's constant thoughts to return to the land of his birth.

Pia said that when her father left on Oct. 28, 2002, for medical treatment in the United States for his liver ailment, "his desire was to return to the Philippines and serve as Senate president."

But when he returned last June 5, a day before the Senate adjourned, he spent the rest of his days talking with "so many of his colleagues in the Senate, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and other government officials about the state of our nation and his vision on how to improve our situation," she said.

Instead of politics, he also told everyone about his message of God's love.

"Though his body grew weaker, his desire to serve his country and God sustained him for 19 days," Pia said.

"Today, our father has returned to the Senate—not the strong, energetic, healthy 'Compañero' you all knew. But a frail-bodied and humble servant of God,"

MY DAD/ A19

Dead soldier's wife puts down baby, picks up M-16

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—"Till death do us part."

For the soldiers who survived the New People's Army attack in Eastern Samar on Thursday, 19-year-old Mary Jane Canonigo lived her wedding vow to the letter.

According to their accounts, Mary Jane brought her 3-month-old baby to a foxhole when the NPA rebels attacked the army detachment in Barangay Cagpile, a remote outpost some 60 km from Oras town. When she saw her husband, Private First Class Jesus Canonigo, die at the height of the raid, Mary Jane reportedly put down her son, grabbed her husband's M-16 rifle and fired at the attackers.

When the morning mist cleared, she was lying in her own blood, just a short distance from her husband. She died on the way to the Oras district hospital.

The baby, though drenched in blood and mud, was unscathed. He is now in the hands of Mary Jane's best friend, Armirose Meneses, a resident of Dolores, Eastern Samar.

The survivors who told the story included Staff Sgt. Noel Dumaguin.

Mary Jane and Jesus were married less than a year ago. She gave birth to their son in March.

On June 21, Mary Jane left Bayugan town, Agusan del Sur, to visit her husband.

DEAD/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

Gov't, NDF panels meet in Amsterdam

By Carlito Pablo

REPRESENTATIVES from the government led by Speaker Jose de Venecia and from the underground National Democratic Front were set to meet last night in Amsterdam to find ways to jump-start the stalled peace talks with communist rebels.

The meeting comes amid an apparent escalation in attacks by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The government team consists of De Venecia, chief peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III and Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap.

Norberto Gonzales, the presidential adviser for special concerns, reportedly left Manila late Thursday to join them.

Gonzales is also President Macapagal-Arroyo's point man in peace negotiations with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The communist rebels will be represented by CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni and NDF panel member Fidel Agcaoili.

"It will be an open discussion on how we can revive the talks," Bello said in a phone interview from Amsterdam.

He said the peace mission was largely a De Venecia initiative which was authorized by Malacañang.

De Venecia's spokesperson Noel Albano noted that the Speaker played a significant role during various stages of the negotiations with the NDF.

"They (NDF) trust him," Albano said.

He said that De Venecia enjoyed personal ties with Jalandoni as the two were classmates at the De La Salle high school.

De Venecia reportedly played a key role in the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in March 1998.

Norway, which brokered peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels, hosted an initial attempt to revive the formal talks last year.

The talks collapsed, however, after NPA guerrillas carried out a series of high-profile assassinations, among them that of an ex-congressman, Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a Marcos-era military intelligence officer accused of numerous human rights violations.

"We are keeping all doors open for peace," said Bello.

Ex-PCGG men charged in sale of Danding jet

By Armand N. Nocum

FOUR former officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, including chair Mateo Caparas, were yesterday charged before the Sandiganbayan for the allegedly "unlawful sale" in 1989 of a rented jet of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto M. Nocos said the legal battle over the Falcon jet, which the PCGG had sequestered after the Edsa people power revolution, resulted in huge losses to the government.

Nocos said that after the jet was sold to the Walter Fuller Aircraft Sales Inc., another firm, Faysound, successfully claimed ownership of the jet through a US court.

The ensuing legal battle cost the government $7.6 million in damages and legal expenses, he said in a press statement.

Nocos said the PCGG failed to ascertain the true ownership of the jet before it was sold, making the government liable to suit by Walter Fuller for "breach of title warranty," when Faysound won its claim of ownership.

"The Walter Fuller suit resulted in liabilities to the government in the total amount of more than $16 million, which was $6.8 million in excess of the proceeds of the sale and its interests while in escrow deposit," Nocos said.

"The difference plus $800,000 in legal expenses had to be paid for with taxpayers' money," he said.

Aside from Caparas, those who were charged were acting commissioner Maximo Maceren, bidding committee head Zosimo Malabanan and PCGG official Ismael Sanchez.

Also charged with graft were Commission on Audit auditor Mario Galang, private individual Benito Cuevo and other John Does.

Last October, Ombudsman investigating officer Roland G. Galvan I also recommended that former PCGG commissioners Rosalio de Leon, Augusto E. Villarin and former PCGG chair David M. Castro also be investigated to "determine if they have anything to do with the instant case."

GMA taps Roxas to head Piatco oversight body

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has formed an oversight committee led by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas to supervise the takeover by government of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's new Terminal 3.

Administrative Order No. 75 which the President signed on Wednesday created the committee to "ensure the immediate completion and operation of the Naia Terminal 3."

The legal basis for the takeover is a recent Supreme Court decision voiding the contracts awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) to build the terminal.

"There was a need to effectively coordinate and integrate efforts to move forward on the basis of the decision of the SC," the President said.

The committee will have as members the transportation and tourism departments and will be assisted by the Solicitor General and the Government Corporate Counsel.

It will implement its decisions through the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

With the oversight committee in place, the government could now study several proposals for the operation of Terminal 3, a Malacañang source said.

One such proposal is for the government to obtain a soft loan from the German government to pay Piatco's German partner, Fraport, the money it had invested in the project.

Fraport had bankrolled the bulk of the cost of building the terminal even though its Filipino partners, led by the Cheng family of the Philippine Airport Ground Services, retain majority control of Piatco.

Under the same deal, the German airport builder and operator will be given the contract to manage the airport.

Even before the SC handed down its decision canceling the Piatco contracts on May 5, and while the ownership and contract dispute remained unresolved, Roxas had proposed Terminal 3 be opened immediately with the transportation department at the helm.

"The opening of this modern facility will help the country's tourism promotion program as well as in our efforts to push trade and investments," Roxas said then.

The terminal was originally scheduled to open in November.

'If GMA wants to run, let her say so'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IF President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to run in 2004 she should say so, instead of letting loose her advisers like Norberto Gonzales to push the idea of her becoming a transition president.

Sen. Joker Arroyo made the statement yesterday, adding that he did not think anyone would begrudge the President changing her mind because "that's her privilege."

"But using some spokesman, men in Malacañang, [to float] a trial balloon saying she would run and that there should be a transition president is not fair because that is practically misleading the people," Arroyo told reporters.

"Don't beat around the bush, giving one excuse after another," he advised the President.

Arroyo said he was convinced Gonzales' statements the past few days putting forth the idea of a transition government had the blessing of Ms Macapagal.

"He will not say [those things] unless there had been clearance from the President," he said. Gonzales would have been fired otherwise, he added.

Arroyo said the latest Social Weather Stations survey showing Ms Macapagal's approval rating had gone up would encourage her to run and the people couldn't blame her for this.

As to efforts to amend the 1987 Constitution, Arroyo said this was "just a cover for Gloria running."

He said he didn't expect the Senate committee on constitutional amendments to endorse Charter change.

Majority Leader Sen. Loren Legarda said she was not for term extensions because "I think each elected official must seek his or her mandate when their terms expire."

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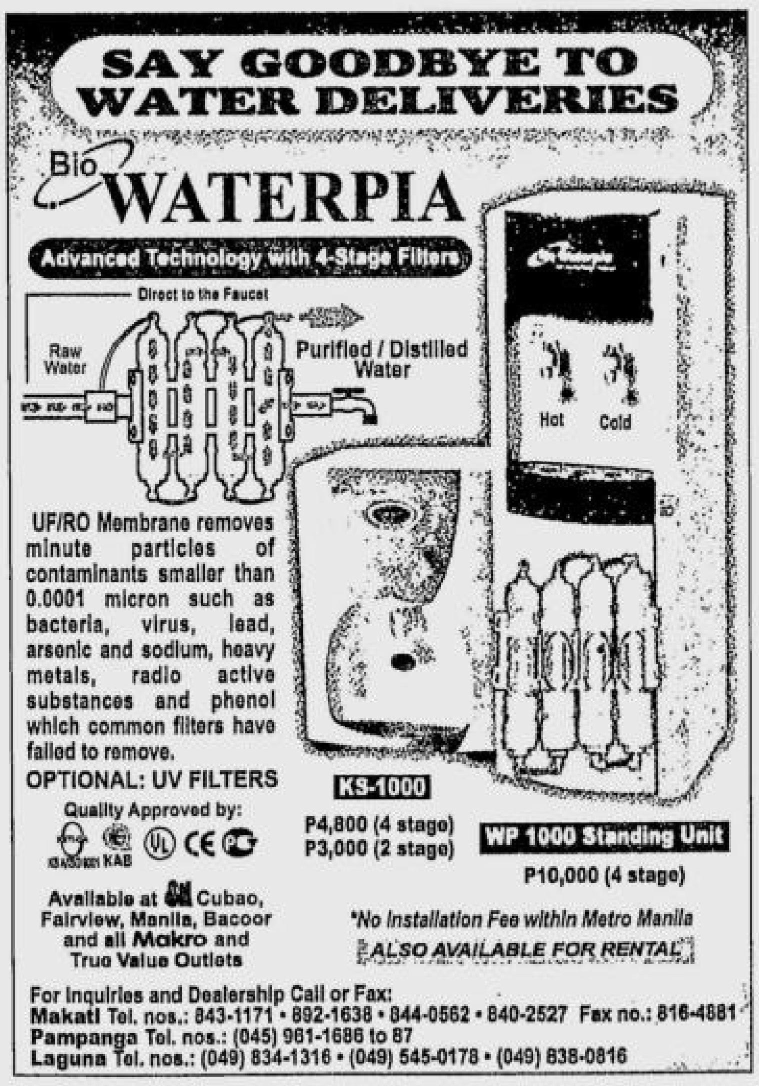
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'Cockeyed idea'

By Norman Bordadora

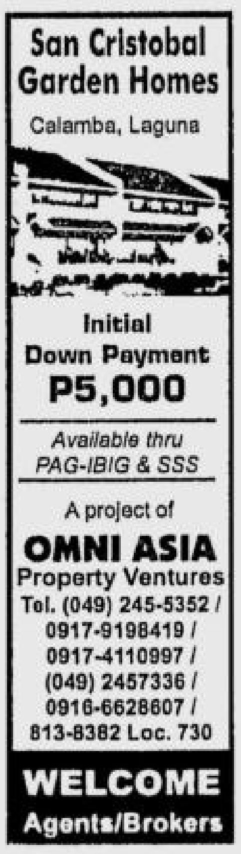
PRESIDENTIAL aspirant Raul Roco said a Charter change scenario being floated by a Malacañang official that sees President Macapagal-Arroyo as a transition head of state was a "cockeyed idea" that would undermine the President's place in history.

"She is the premier figure of People Power 2. Figuring in such a transition scenario put forward by a nonofficial would be a demotion in her place in the country's history," Roco told reporters at the Hotel Rembrandt forum yesterday.

Norberto Gonzales, the presidential adviser on special concerns who is said to have put together a study group on Charter change, has been quoted in numerous press reports as advancing the idea that Ms Macapagal could remain President during a transition to a parliamentary system.

Roco indicated he did not accept the idea as the President's official stand as it did not come from her official spokesperson.

He said he believed Ms Macapagal would not renege on her vow not to seek a regular term in 2004 and would just focus her energies on the country's pressing problems.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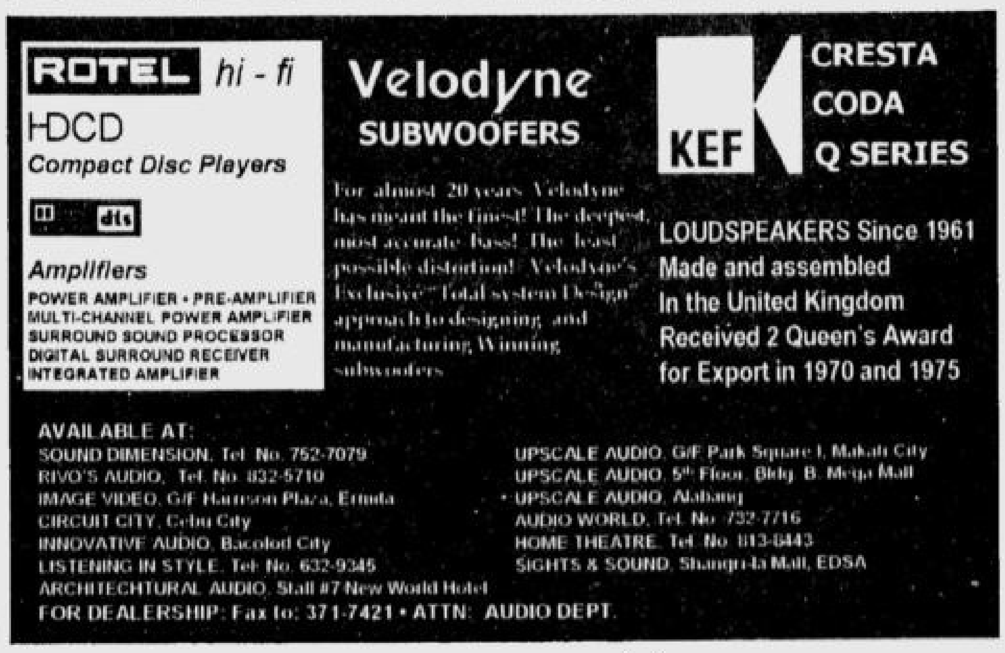
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Tell us about list of Marcos assets, Imee urged

By Alcuin Papa

TELL US about the "Imee List."

The Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday it wanted to hear from Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos about the list she had made of her late father's assets and foundations both here and abroad just before her family fled Malacañang in 1986.

PCGG officer-in-charge Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. told reporters yesterday the list had been found by the PCGG in Malacañang immediately after the late dictator and his family fled at the height of the People Power I revolt. Carranza said the PCGG has verified the information on the list.

He said that since Imee appears bent on running for senator in the next elections, she should explain to the public the contents of the list.

"She could answer a lot of questions about her family," Carranza said.

The list was reportedly in Imee's handwriting and detailed the various assets, shares of stock and foundations which her father claimed to own here and abroad.

The list, Carranza said, was prepared by Imee with the help of her father's crony, Rolando Gapud.

More importantly, he said, it enumerated all the foundations established by the late President in which Imee, her brother Bongbong and sister Irene were the beneficiaries.

"Most of the assets had been turned over to the government by (former Marcos crony Jose) Campos. But we have already verified this list," said Carranza.

The list, the PCGG theorized, was meant to be a catalog of the Marcos children's inheritance.

"It seems she is bent on running for higher office, so we wonder what money she will use," Carranza said.

From London where she is on vacation, Imee yesterday denied the authenticity of the list.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Imee said the list was fake and a rehash of an old document the PCGG claimed it had recovered in 1986.

"That Carranza story is an old one. That's the same old yellow paper that former PCGG chair Jovito Salonga claimed to have 17 years ago," she said.

Imee is scheduled to return to the country on Sunday.

With Cynthia Balana

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Yorac out of hospital after surgery

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said Thursday its chair Haydee Yorac was "recovering magnificently" after an operation on her ovaries.

PCGG Commissioner Vyva Aguirre told reporters that Yorac has been discharged from the hospital and has regained her appetite.

"Her doctors have told her that she can eat anything but has to watch her blood sugar," Aguirre said.

She added that Yorac was undergoing physical therapy after some of her bones and muscles atropied when she was bed-ridden for one month.

But Aguirre did not say when Yorac would resume her duties at the PCGG. In her stead, Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. was earlier designated as the commission's officer-in-charge.

Aguirre also revealed that Yorac was receiving a few visitors and was once visited by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Yorac suffered a mild stroke while attending a meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission at Malacañang on Jan. 29. She was rushed to the Medical Center Manila and was confined in the intensive care unit for a week.

When she was discharged, she slowed down her work at the commission by visiting the PCGG office thrice a week.

During the PCGG's 17th anniversary last February, Yorac showed up as a "surprise guest." Yorac, who was assisted by a nurse, looked thinner but was in high spirits.

During her regular check-ups after her stroke, doctors discovered a mass in one of her ovaries.

She underwent an operation last May to take out the mass and was bed-ridden for a month.

Yorac turned 62 last March.

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DOH usec quits, laments lack of sincere gov't people

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Saying there were "no sincere people in government," Health Undersecretary Epifanio Lacap has resigned his post.

In a letter received by Malacañang on June 12, Lacap had asked for a five-minute audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo to tender his "personal resignation, which will take effect immediately," and to submit his "confidential reports."

His request was denied, however, with the Palace's Appointments Secretary Constancia de Guzman telling him in a June 16 letter that the President had previous commitments.

"She is a good President but there are no sincere people (*walang tapat na tao*) in her government. Everyone is a 'yes ma'am.' No one criticizes her that's why her ratings in surveys showed a decline," said Lacap, speaking in Kapampangan on Friday. He declined to elaborate. A recent Social Weather Stations survey, however, showed a dramatic rise in President Macapagal's approval rating in the past few months.

De Guzman suggested that Lacap submit his "reports" instead for the President to study.

Lacap said he was determined to resign because "I cannot work with her if I don't have the power and authority."

As a health undersecretary since 2001, he lamented that he had "no good functions and authority." This, he said, had limited his capacity to help as many people as possible.

He bewailed this, saying he was a "loyal follower of the President." But "I can't work with politicians."

"I'll resign for good. I'm not necessarily disappointed, I just want to rest," he said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

SINKING PIER

Not my fault, says ports chief

By Armand N. Nocum

PHILIPPINE Ports Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi has washed his hands of any responsibility for the P230-million "sinking pier" in Roxas City.

In a counter-affidavit he filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, Cusi said the pier project was started before he took office and he only oversaw its completion.

"Like any project owner, the PPA cannot be expected to be aware of each defect at the time the project is turned over," he said in his June 9 counter-affidavit to the administrative complaint filed by Ariel Lim of the Consumer Complaints Center Inc.

He added that as PPA general manager, he could not be expected to be around the project at all times to oversee its implementation.

"It bears emphasizing that as general manager, I could not have been expected to remain at Culasi to oversee each detail of the port project . . . but to leave the same to my subordinates," he said.

Still, he said "PPA's records show that my subordinates indeed complied with the required procedures."

Lim had charged Cusi and several others before the Ombudsman, accusing them of using "limestone rocks or buga"—not core rocks—for the project, which resulted in cracks developing in the foundation of the new Culasi port in Roxas City.

Lim had cited a report by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources which warned of a "progressive settlement or sinking" of the pier.

Cusi furnished the Ombudsman with documents showing that the "aforementioned core rocks were indeed delivered and installed by the contractor."

Besides, he said, the contractor, Golden City and Engineering and Construction Co., had already fixed the alleged defects. He said the project was secured by a P19.6-million surety bond put up by the firm.

In his counter-affidavit, Cusi dismissed Lim's complaint as "nothing but harassment, intended to impute criminal liability where none actually exists."

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DOJ junks Fariñas libel suit vs Inquirer

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has dismissed the libel suit filed by former Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas against the INQUIRER and women's rights activists.

Fariñas had accused the INQUIRER and the women activists of "maliciously imputing" that he had abused his late wife, actress Maria Teresa Carlson, until she took her own life in November 2001.

The INQUIRER published two stories—"Justice for Carlson" on Nov. 27 and "Women demand justice for Carlson" on Dec. 2—after the suicide.

Fariñas charged the women activists, who were quoted in the stories, of maliciously appropriating and exploiting Carlson's name for their own purposes.

Named respondents in the complaint were INQUIRER reporters Juliet L. Javellana and Agnes Donato, managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, publisher Isagani Yambot and Inq7 president and CEO Paolo R. Prieto.

The members of the women's groups were Ana Leah Sarabia and lawyer Evelyn Ursua of the Kalakasan Foundation, national chair Elizabeth Angsioco of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines and the leaders of the Sama-Samang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan.

In an eight-page resolution, acting Laoag City Prosecutor Maria Laarni R. Parayno junked the libel complaint for "lack of probable cause."

FARIÑAS

"As the questioned news reports and the utterances made by the respondents are considered privileged communication and enjoy protection under the guarantee of freedom of the press and expression of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, the complaint is hereby dismissed for lack of probable cause," Parayno said.

She said Donato and Javellana were able to establish that "there was no malicious imputation" in the stories they had written.

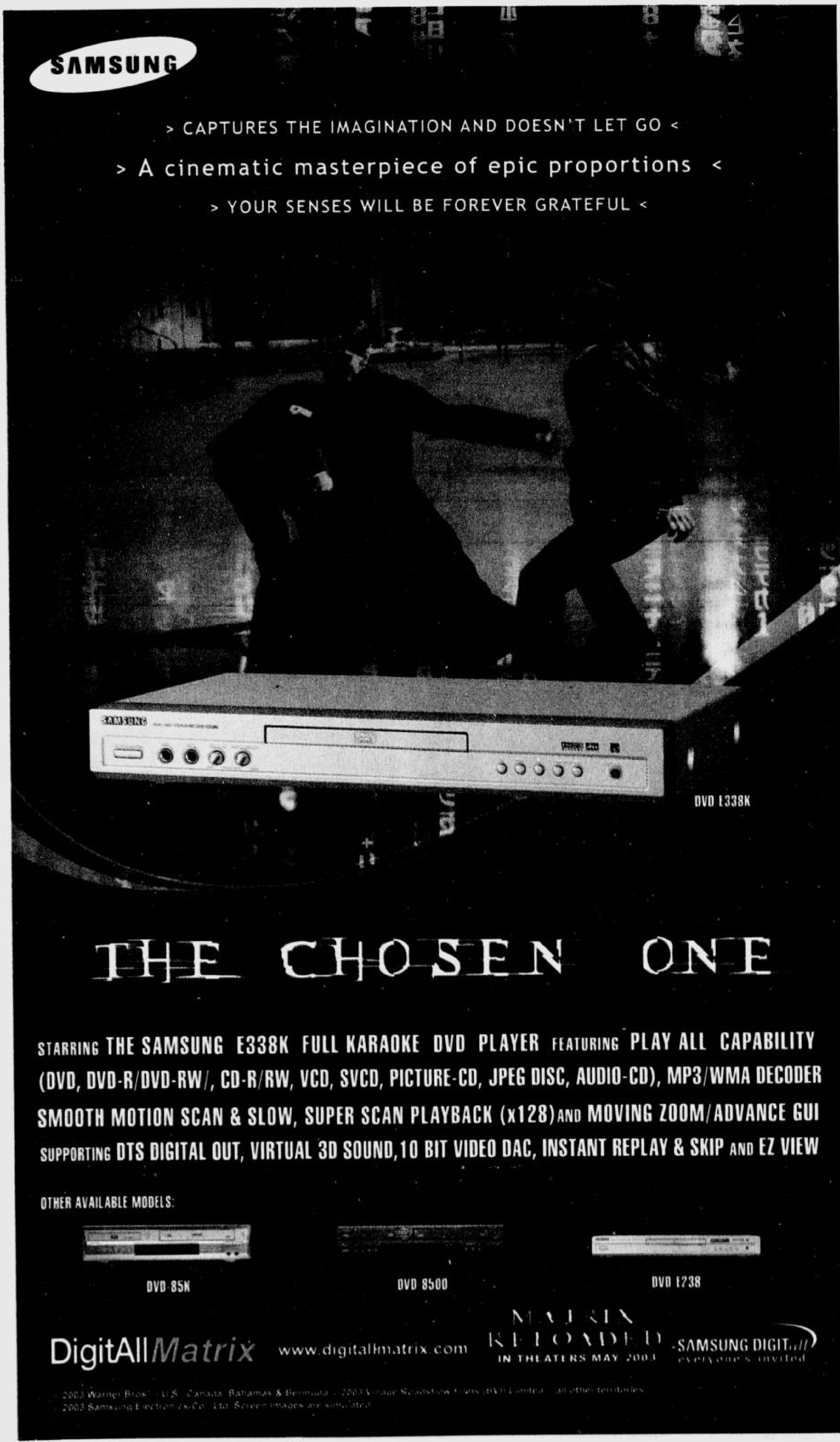
"A reading of the said news reports would show that these are fair and true reports, made in good faith, without any comments or remarks," Parayno said.

Parayno said the two reporters had a duty to inform their readers about matters of public concern, like the activities of women's groups and public figures like Fariñas and Carlson.

Parayno said the women's groups also could not be held liable for libel.

"As advocates of women's groups that are actively involved in the passage of laws for the protection of women, their statements in furtherance of their advocacy, as long as made without malice or ill-will, cannot be considered as libelous," Parayno said.

She also noted that the statement that Carlson was an abused wife did not primarily come from the respondents but from Carlson herself during a television interview in 1996.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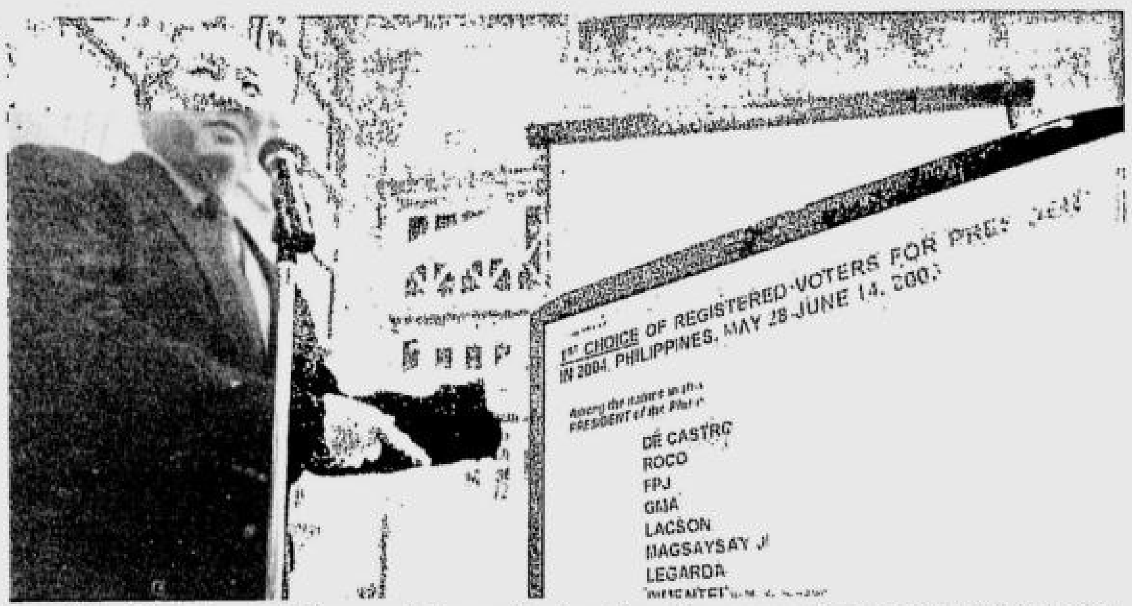
De Castro, Roco top picks in latest SWS survey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LEGARDA

DR. Mahar Mangahas of SWS presents the results of a nationwide survey on the respondents' choice for president in the 2004 elections. JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

De Castro, 22 percent for Roco, 18 percent for Poe, 15 percent for Lacson, 5 percent for Magsaysay, 4 percent for Legarda, 3 percent for Pimentel, 2 percent for Guingona and 7 percent undecided.

The SWS said the two-point difference between De Castro and Roco would not be statistically significant with Ms Macapagal out of the race.

The survey, commissioned by the Polistrat Intl. consulting firm, was conducted through personal interviews of a national sample of 1,200 adult respondents and had a margin of error of 3 percent.

Roco overtaken

The SWS said its latest survey would imply that De Castro has overtaken Roco and Poe who led the previous Dec. 7 to 15, 2002 survey sponsored by ABS-CBN.

That survey showed Roco leading with 24 percent, Poe 21 percent, De Castro 19 percent, Ms Macapagal 13 percent and six other contenders with single-digit votes.

In the latest survey, De Castro emerged as the most popular second choice for President with 18 percent, Poe 15 percent, Roco 14 percent, Legarda 12 percent, Lacson 10 percent, Ms Macapagal 9 percent, Magsaysay 7 percent, Pimentel 4 percent, Guingona one percent and 11 percent undecided.

De Castro was also the most popular second choice for vice president.

The SWS said there were different favorites for President in the four survey areas.

Ms Macapagal was strong in the Visayas with 31 percent followed by De Castro who got 23 percent. De Castro was strong in Mindanao with 31 percent followed by Poe who got 16 percent.

Roco has a wide lead in Metro Manila with 33 percent compared to Lacson's 17 percent and De Castro's 23 percent. In the rest of Luzon, Poe got 21 percent.

Surveys are mirrors

The President thanked the people for their support as shown in another SWS survey which had her public satisfaction rating jumping to plus 14 in the second quarter of the year compared to the negative 14 that she got in the first quarter.

"I believe surveys are a mirror of the people's most important yearnings and needs. In short, these are sincerity, action and results," she said in a statement.

She said she was committed to leadership based on these three points.

"I thank the people for their trust and support by which I will continue to be inspired to do my best for the common good," the President said.

Roco in FYI

Still yet another pre-election survey of presidential voting preferences, this time by the FYI Research and Consulting Group, placed Roco in the lead in the race for president and Legarda for vice president.

The FYI nationwide survey, conducted between May 27 and June 10 with 3,000 registered voters national sample, ranked Roco first with 34.9 percent in a list of five possible presidential candidates.

The survey did not include Ms Macapagal, the FYI said in a press statement.

Following Roco, the rankings were as follows: Lacson 26.9 percent, De Castro 26.8 percent, Eduardo Cojuangco 6 percent and Magsaysay 4.3 percent.

The survey had an error margin of 1.8 percent.

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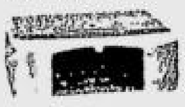

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Nigerians take 2 Pinoy oil workers hostage

From page A1

crime and labor disputes.

The men were employees of Seabulk, a sub-contractor working with the Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell in the western Niger Delta near the city of Warri, a Shell spokesman told AFP.

They were seized on Monday in the Burutu area near Warri, a region where earlier this year ethnic unrest forced firms to cut Nigerian oil production by more than a third.

The kidnappers have demanded 25 million naira (US$197,000) in ransom and 400,000 naira to cover the cost of their food during the hostage-taking, the Shell official said.

A spokesman for the Nigerian navy, Capt. Sinefi Hungiapuko, identified the hostages as two Filipinos and one German and said that naval forces were standing by to assist if asked. Their names were not released, however.

"The men were working on Shell's Forcados-Yokri project when they were captured," the Shell spokesman said. *AFP*

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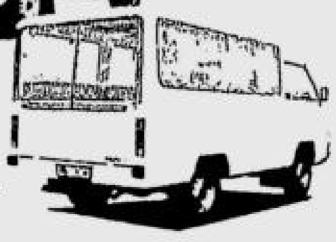

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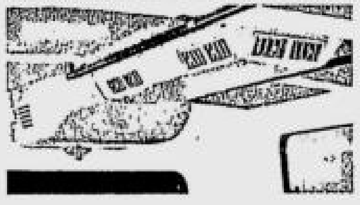

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Quagmire

THERE are two versions of the event.

The first one says the six British military policemen who were killed the other day in a southern Iraqi town were executed in cold blood by a mob. The soldiers had held a gallant stand in a police outpost, ordering their Iraqi trainees to flee, but had been overwhelmed by the mob and executed after they surrendered.

The second version says the British soldiers were abusive. They had tried to foist their trainees on a place steeped in the ways of Islam, and had carried out intrusive searches in homes in search of weapons. The residents had particularly minded the soldiers' use of dogs, which they regarded as unclean animals. Their protestations were met with gunfire, wounding 17 of them. That was what drove them to attack the soldiers.

Whichever is true, one thing is sure: The coalition forces are not going to have an easy time in the country they are trying to rule. Nor are they going to leave it in record time.

Richard Lugar, the US Senate foreign relations chair, affirms this. He says the occupation forces will be in Iraq at the very least for five years. And at a cost of many billions of dollars.

"The idea that we will be there just as long as we need to and not a day more—we've got to get over that rhetoric. It's rubbish. We're going to be there for a long time. At some point, we—that is Congress, the president and people in the know—really have to level with the American people."

The problem however is that Congress, the president and people in the know do not have a very good record leveling with the American people about Iraq. It is only recently that the Democrats in Congress have bestirred themselves to conduct a hearing on whether or not the president, his aides, and the intelligence community lied to the public about the extent of the dangers posed by Saddam Hussein. This early, the conclusion is clear.

Hans Blix, the UN chief arms inspector, for one has no doubt about it. He says the Pentagon and US President George W. Bush manipulated the facts and figures. He has not minced his words. He has been the victim, he said, of "those bastards in the Pentagon" who bore down on him with threat and blandishment to make a case for war by saying categorically Saddam had those weapons. When he refused, they tried to discredit him.

Blix reiterated his case only a couple of days ago, though in less strident language. "It's sort of puzzling," he said, referring to the fact that while the occupation forces have discovered no such weapons, US officials expressed confidence they would find them. He did not mention the text joke that circulated widely in the cellular phones of Filipinos, which said Bush was absolutely certain of the existence of those weapons and could prove it because he had the deed of sale.

Harry Kelber, a writer for Labor Educator, sees the implications of this thus: "The Bush war hawks insist it doesn't matter. The important thing is that Saddam Hussein has been overthrown, and let us forget about the weapons of mass destruction. They say we won a military victory and liberated the Iraqi people, and that's what counts. (And let's not worry that Saddam was not captured, dead or alive, and that most Iraqis consider allied forces as occupiers rather than liberators.) But is it really a minor, forgivable issue that the president of the United States lied to the American people to get them to support a war in which they had no direct interest? The poll ratings aside, isn't the President's credibility damaged, not only here but around the world?"

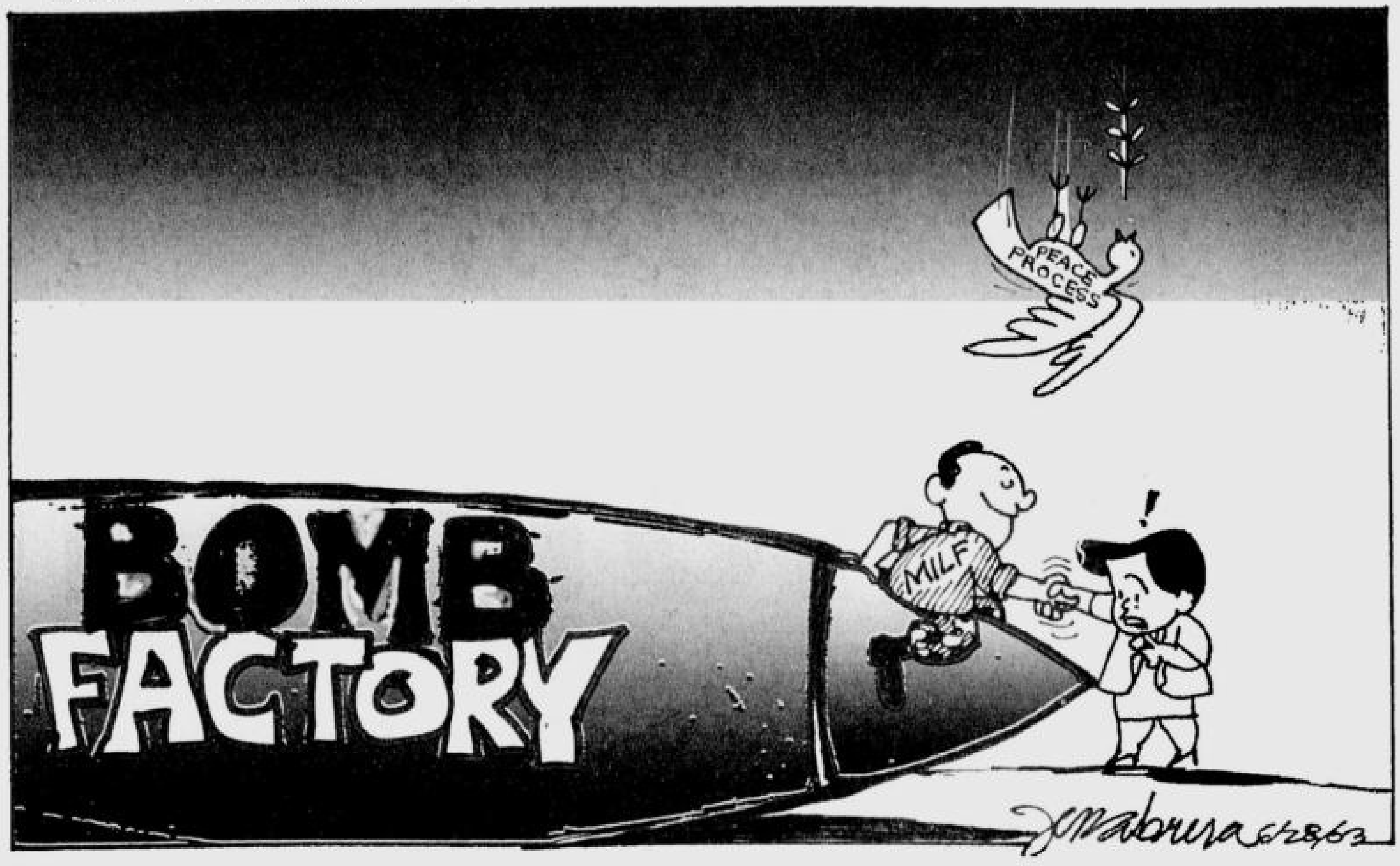
Bush may very well find out that the stickier quagmire isn't in Iraq, it's right at home.

Cesspool

IF you thought the premise of the movie "The Pelican Brief" was thin, think again. The movie asked us to believe that unscrupulous American intelligence (there goes that word again) agents would actually try to murder a graduate student because she happened to write a thesis that accurately analyzed their machinations.

Well, Tony Blair is currently in very deep trouble after his communications chief, Alastair Campbell, admitted part of Blair's stentorian brief against Saddam Hussein came from a graduate thesis someone had posted in the Internet!

Life imitates, well, call the movie what you will. But it's a cesspool Blair is finding himself in.



Ousting the 'trapo'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NANDY Pacheco, indefatigable gun control advocate, has demonstrated his civic spirit again by organizing the Kapatiran, which seeks to establish a new leadership for the country to replace the *trapo* system that has debased our democracy for decades. Initially a civic society only, it hopes to be eventually converted into a political party composed of idealistic men and women who will establish a new government that will be, as he describes it, *"maka-Diyos, makabayan at maka-tao."*

Not being a joiner, I have not yet decided to accept my good friend Nandy's invitation to his crusade, which he is waging all over the country at his own expense. I sincerely admire him for this. And I must also say that I agree with Kapatiran's basic purpose, which is "to promote the integral development or total well being of all Filipinos in and outside the schools through character-building (including good manners and right conduct), values formation based on such fundamental principles as sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person."

I had intended earlier to list some of the specific objectives of Kapatiran but I was preempted by the editorial of this paper in its issue of June 10, 2003. I will therefore simply supplement that enumeration with some other suggested changes that should jibe with that organization's moral and political platform. I believe these suggestions will also contribute to the correction of some of our current problems and improve our society, whatever form of government we may prefer.

Among these are the following:

a) Abolish the term limits in Congress and local offices which have only resulted in the election of incompetent wives, children, brothers and other relatives to sit as benchwarmers for political kingpins waiting during the prohibited interval to resume their former seats.

b) Assign only one official car to authorized officials, unlike in the Commission on Elections (and other offices), whose members have three brand-new luxury cars each, all purchased and maintained at public expense.

c) Require the Commission on Audit to pre-audit government transactions instead of post-auditing them when the anomalous contracts are already a "done deal" and can no longer be rectified except to prosecute the guilty parties who are usually unable to refund the public funds they have embezzled.

d) Grant motions for postponement in court and administrative cases only once and for 15 days only, in line with the speedy administration of justice promised by the Constitution that is frustrated by indolent judges, quasi-judicial officials, and "clever" lawyers.

e) Reject as a rule television personalities, radio broadcasters, basketball players, movie stars and other kinds of entertainers running for public office who trade on their tinsel popularity to defeat their cerebral limitations.

f) Junk the party-list system, where persons elected "blindly" by unsuspecting voters are able to enter the House of the Representatives through the back door in derogation of the constitutional right to information and the rule of the majority.

g) Vest the power to impeach in one-third of each House of Congress, voting separately, and the power to try and decide impeachment cases in a special tribunal composed of three retired Supreme Court justices to be appointed by the Supreme Court, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, conviction to be made only by unanimous vote.

h) Prohibit bingo along with other games of chance and the establishment of casinos that only promote immorality and indolence and retard economic progress.

i) Regulate tuition fees, which have created an educational caste system based on ability to pay, to the prejudice of the students of public schools that suffer in comparison with private schools and their superior facilities because of the higher fees they can charge without government limitation.

j) Appoint a no-nonsense commission to overhaul the traffic system and fire all policemen, traffic enforcers and other law agents mulcting helpless motorists and collecting illicit rentals for the use of public places for private purposes.

k) Discontinue the practice of appointing retired military officers to civilian positions in violation of the constitutional rule upholding the supremacy of civilian authority over the armed forces, in view especially of the availability of civilians, and the general incompetence of the military, for such positions.

l) Limit to only one term the regular members of the Judicial and Bar Council, to make it independent of the President of the Philippines, who can influence their nominations with the promise of their re-appointment if they would be so pliable.

I have more to suggest, as I'm sure many others have, to make our government more responsible and more responsive to the people's needs. I am happy that the Kapatiran is awakening the national consciousness from its hopeless lethargy over the nation's ills. We must welcome this new movement for the rejection of the traditional politicians and their replacement by a new, selfless and God-fearing leadership.

Doing what is right

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LET'S say that we could measure our regard for a politician, i.e., the respect or esteem in which he/she is held, on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning we have no respect at all for the person, or hold him in total contempt, and 10 meaning that we hold him in the highest esteem. Let's say further that we are plotting the scores over time, the assumption being that the longer the time period, the more familiar or the more knowledgeable we are about his persona, public and/or private. What would the resulting relationship look like in a graph?

I did this exercise mentally for some of the politicians in the news, and got some interesting shapes. In some cases, the graph of my regard over time shows a rather steep, negatively sloping curve, which means that when the politician first came within my radar screen, he looked very good, but the character flaws became more and more obvious as time went by. The classic case of familiarity breeding contempt or disrespect.

In other instances, the curve starts close to the origin, with a very gentle negative slope, almost flat, which means that I held the politician in very low regard from the beginning, and the passage of time did not only reinforce the original opinion, but his actions led to an even lower regard.

Other shapes that emerge are flat lines, starting high and remaining high, although these are few and far between (yes, Virginia, there are politicians who have kept their faith with the people; Juan Flavier is a case in point). There are those who don't start too high, but rise steadily (Jun Magsaysay falls into this category). There are also U-shaped curves, meaning that the politicians started off highly esteemed, lost my respect, and then regained it. Another interesting shape is an inverted U, which means that as time went by, the regard with which I held this particular politician rose, but eventually fell (*nabisto siya*).

This is not to say that the shapes are all smooth, that the scores follow a continuous upward or downward path through time. As far as I could tell from this mental exercise, the scores can go up and down with rapidity, but always around a trend line. It is the shape of this underlying trend that I am describing.

One politician who started high in my regard, and has risen even higher in the esteem in which I hold him, is Bayani Fernando. As I have written in previous columns, even before I met him, I had publicly recommended that he be made chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority because of what I had seen and heard to be his accomplishments while he was mayor of Marikina—and heaven knows we needed a good MMDA head.

These accomplishments should not be underestimated. They are more than just providing squatters with alternative residential locations and cleaning up a river and providing efficient front-line services, although these are truly Herculean tasks, which have eluded accomplishment by most local governments. What to me is Fernando's most important contribution is that he has proven that Filipinos can be law abiding, that they are not congenitally corrupt, that the common good can prevail over individual interests, given the proper incentives (carrots and sticks) and the proper leadership.

His appointment to the MMDA has proven to be one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's best choices. I opposed his concurrent appointment as public works secretary, fearing that he would be biting off more than he could chew, and the people would suffer for it. But as it turned out, my fears were groundless: the MMDA administration continued to improve even as he took on with relish the rooting out of corruption in the DPWH, proving his administrative and management prowess.

I had vowed to eat my words against his double appointment in public, but I never had the chance to. I left the country for a quick trip abroad, and when I returned, he had already left the DPWH. I don't know what the public, articulated reason was for his departure. But I have a strong feeling about the private reason: he was too successful. Which means he stepped on too many toes: those whose benefits from corruption he was ruthlessly canceling, as well as those who were afraid of his increasing popularity. Cleaning up the DPWH would have been like cleaning up the Augean stables—and if he succeeded, there would be no stopping the Filipino people from sweeping him into the highest office of the land. Politics rearing up its ugly face.

Nevertheless, Metro Manilans have felt the benefits of his administration such as reduced travel time (e.g. in the Commonwealth Avenue area, in the Marcos highway), and sidewalks that have been given back to pedestrians (he cleared the sidewalks in front of Balara and behind UP that were occupied by vendors who couldn't be removed for the past 17 years).

The crucial question is: Why are politicians like Bayani Fernando held in the highest regard, with that regard holding steady or increasing over time? My answer: Because they do things not because they are popular but because they are right. And paradoxically, doing what is right—for the country, that is—ensures popularity. However, the gains in popularity achieved by doing what is popular even if it is wrong, may be transient. As is underscored by the latest surveys on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Filipino people are not dumb. Anyone who disregards this truth does so at his peril, I hope sooner rather than later.

People give thumbs up to GMA's crisis management

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE STEEP rise in President Macapagal-Arroyo's net satisfation rating, as shown by the SWS surveys, from a negative 14 percent last March 10-15 to a plus 14 percent between May 28 and June 14, is cause for some jubilation at the Palace. But there are some significant factors in this latest one that should be noted. For one thing, the increase was highest in the Visayas, Luzon and—most significantly—in the National Capital Region, the heart of the nation, which is generally oppositionist and very critical. In Mindanao, however, she got a negative 4 percent, but this may conceivably improve after her eight-day stay there in the middle of this month, where she launched a number of development projects.

* * *

The survey period covered was also significant as it was immediately after her US state visit of May 17-20, which was perceived by the people to have brought home many goodies. Whether they admitted it or not, many Filipinos felt good about that trip. Moreover, judging from their response, it was obvious that they approved of her efficient handling of several crises, such as preventing the outbreak of SARS and cushioning the impact of the war in Iraq.

I asked a Cabinet member what boosted GMA's approval rating and he said it was her crisis management skills. "This is where she's good at," he said, mentioning her decision to dispatch Energy Secretary Vincent Perez to the Middle East to ensure a steady oil supply and retired Gen. Roy Cimatu to supervise the possible evacuation of Filipino workers during the war in Iraq and prodding Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit at the height of the SARS crisis.

It is good to remember however that survey results can be quite volatile, and the Palace is well advised to just concentrate on its work and pay less attention to those results.

* * *

My family and I would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of two good friends who passed away recently: former Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto and Sen. Renato Cayetano. I used to regularly see General Ileto (West Point '43) at gatherings of the West Point alumni where he was simply "Rocky" to everyone—always jovial and gracious, and most gallant to the ladies who found him quite dashing. At our gathering soon after Edsa II, Ileto went out of his way to emphasize to me how he keenly followed my accounts of the Senate impeachment trial and the uprising and agreed with my observations.

* * *

Cayetano, whom I knew from my husband's days in the old Ministry of Defense, was always a good source of Senate news for me. His analyses of the day's issues were always erudite, and he was one of the leading lights in the impeachment trial. My husband and I remember a cozy dinner at Ambassador Carlos Villa-Abrille's residence in Buenos Aires with Rene and Vince Perez in October 2001 where we sat up talking about the latest Senate happenings. I queried Cayetano about the controversy over his purchase of BW Resources shares, which some colleagues of his claimed to be favors from Dante Tan. That hurt him a lot. Later he invited me to his office where he showed me all the checks and receipts to prove his purchases were aboveboard.

* * *

At the necrological services for General Ileto, various speakers recalled many facets of his life as military leader, diplomat and family man. Retired Maj. Gen. Jose Magno, one of Ileto's original "boys," recalled how he built up the Scout Rangers, the tough, black-shirted AFP group that, as former Chief of Staff Manuel Yan put it, became the backbone of defense against the Hukbalahaps during Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay's time. To this day Ileto is referred to as the "Father of the Scout Rangers."

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya recalled how, as a newly arrived West Point graduate in 1971, he was encouraged by then Army Chief Ileto to grab his second scholarship in the United States, saying it was "too good to pass up." Abaya also noted that the successful piggery business Ileto put up in Pililia, Rizal, with seven hogs initially, inspired a generation of officers to put up their own small family businesses, too, as a buffer against corruption with their low pay.

* * *

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez pointed out that Ileto had installed methods in the National Security Council that are still followed. He also recalled the man who cut a dashing figure on the dance floor (he was Imelda's rhumba partner and squired some of the prettiest women around town).

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes called him "the best chief of staff the AFP never had," recalling how Marcos, wary of this independent-minded officer, kept him in the freezer.

Ambassador Benjamin Domingo recalled that as ambassador, Ileto had been assigned to posts that were experiencing crises, such as Iran during the Shah's fall (which he predicted), and Thailand during the coup years. In the DFA, Ileto was referred to as "the expert on coup d'etats."

* * *

President Ramos, seven years Ileto's junior at West Point, succeeded him as chief of the defense department in January 1988, while Ileto assumed the post of national security adviser and NSC director general. FVR recalled his first meeting with Ileto who was clad in the Scout Rangers' black uniform, "tall, lean, full of electric energy and dynamic—a total man." He said Ileto built the Scout Rangers on the foundation of toughness, endurance and discipline for which it became known. As commander of the First Infantry Brigade (Separate) in the Visayas in the 1970s, FVR recalled, Ileto was "a good boss, mission-oriented and no-nonsense." He related that he and his wife Ming were "inspired" by Ileto's piggery business enough to try it, too, but they gave it up after a while.

The 'karaoke' parish

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE "BEDROOM COMMUNITIES" of South San Francisco, San Bruno and most famously, Daly City, are known as Pinoy enclaves in the Bay Area, cities that are home to so many Fil-American families that one can hear Filipino spoken on the streets. Strip malls are lined with establishments bearing such familiar names and logos as Goldilocks, Max's Chicken, Barrio Fiesta and Jollibee, or signs that hark back to home, like Ongpin, Manila Barbecue and Fiesta Filipino. So Pinoy is the area that homegrown comic Rex Navarette jokes that "the fog you see over Daly City is not really fog, it's the steam rising from all the rice cookers opened at dinner time."

Well, it seems only right then that the area should be served by a most quintessentially Pinoy parish, where community and communal sharing are nurtured just as much as music and song.

What I know about St. Augustine Parish in South San Francisco I know mainly through relatives, through my cousin Buddy Braganza and his wife Mila (Buddy is the immediate past president of the parish council), and my late uncle and aunt, Salvador and Luz Braganza who in their retirement in the US had made St. Augustine their second home and the focus of their energies. Links to St. Augustine were further strengthened with the marriage of my friend Maloy Ramos to Vic Barrairo, who, it happened, knew the Braganzas well through his sister, Sr. Nona Barrairo, SFCC, St. Augustine's coordinator for youth and parish activities.

"The singing priests" is how Maloy first described to me the pastors of St. Augustine, led by parish priest Fr. Eugene Tungol and his assistants, Fr. Jun Ligtas and Fr. Manuel Curso, who are inclined to sing their way through Mass or break into song at the slightest excuse. One Sunday while I was visiting, Mass goers were all agog at the news that Father Eugene himself had acted as "cantor," or song leader, at a morning Mass.

* * *

WITH SUCH song-loving shepherds, it's no wonder that St. Augustine's flock should themselves be musical devotees. There are no less than seven choirs in the parish, who divide the Sunday Mass chores among themselves, and a corps of young male and female cantors.

Truly, the musical talent that abounds in St. Augustine's parish is astounding, and it was only inevitable that this prodigious talent be put on display in a concert.

Dubbed "Hope, Peace and Love...through Music," the performance featured the Music Ministries of St. Augustine, from the "Children's Choir" to even "The Singing Staff," as well as "Three Generations" of singing priests, including a visiting talent in the person of Fr. Arnold Zamora who serves in a nearby parish. In between the choir numbers were performances by young singers in the parish: Dana Soliman, Grace Padilla, Christine Adiaz and Kristine Siajon. The "Valera Family Choir," which performs on social occasions and some of whose members belong to church choirs, too, contributed their share through a most moving rendition of "The Prayer," performed by Dan Valera and his 10-year-old daughter Danielle.

* * *

WHEN we arrived at the church the evening of the concert, we found an eager crowd massed at the entrance, shivering as much in anticipation as from the icy winds that keep the area in perpetually chilly weather.

Special guests were Sen. Nene Pimentel, his wife Bing and some family members, all of whom had driven all the way from Los Angeles for the concert as well as to address a forum of Fil-Americans and local officials—and to talk about the absentee voting law, of course.

Still, there was no cause for apprehension on the performers' part. Though mostly amateurs, they did themselves proud, singing with all energy and dedication, honed by months of practice at the hands of Sister Nona and of Vincent Satuito, a trained conductor and chorale master who volunteered to whip the various choirs into shape.

Though there were religious numbers aplenty, including a most impressive piece by Handel performed by the St. Augustine Chorale (of which my cousin Mila is a member), there was room for more "pop" sensibilities, too. All the soloists performed ballads and the Men's Choir brought the house down with a medley of love songs that showed, as I whispered to my sister, that "all those nights at karaoke joints are finally paying off."

* * *

ST. Augustine's image as a "karaoke parish" was underscored by the "Three Generations" of priests, so-called because Father Eugene, back in a minor seminary in Bohol, had Father Arnold as his student in high school while Father Jun was only in elementary.

Upon their entrance, the three pastors were roundly applauded, and even their glitches and memory lapses were forgiven readily, if a bit loudly. When he forgot some lines from "I Will be Here," Father Eugene ad-libbed that he did so deliberately, "to see how you would react." To which Father Arnold quipped: "Lines you can forget, but you never forget the second collection!" Imagine, these pastors are not just singers, they're stand-up comics, too!

Because most of the priests assigned to St. Augustine hail from Bohol and thus speak Filipino with a strong accent, it's rare to hear a Mass said in Filipino, or even some Filipino Mass songs. Although I must note that there are Mass songs in Spanish, in acknowledgment of the Latino members of the community.

But in all other ways St. Augustine is typically Filipino, with distance from home and the search for identity perhaps drawing parishioners closer than they would otherwise be back here. As the show drew to a close, I knew that more than the music, it's the sense of belonging to a family that makes St. Augustine a home for Pinoys, resident or otherwise.

More of this and that

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME of us get our dander up at the claim that Ferdinand Magellan "discovered" us. What it means of course is that nothing was known in 16th century Europe about the Philippines. One could likewise claim that the majority of Southeast Asians didn't know anything about Europe or the Americas either, but then they didn't go off writing their memoirs or their chronicles thus, leaving traces of their passage.

Had the Portuguese king listened to Fernando Magalhao's plan to sail west to reach the Moluccas, the Philippines might well have become part of the Portuguese Empire. Instead, it was Spanish Emperor Charles I who sponsored Magellan's journey and certainly this time it can rightfully be claimed that "the rest is history."

Although the poor man never lived to enjoy it, Magellan was given the title of governor of all countries he might discover and sailed into the Pacific Ocean through the straits which now bear his name, making him immortal in ways not granted to ordinary mortals. Four months later he reached the Marianas, which he christened "Las Velas Latinas" (but which some other uncharitable souls would rename "Ladrones Islands"), after which he reached Mindanao. Now listen to this: "...on account of its being the time of the feast of Pentecost, he allowed his men to land near the Butuan River for the purpose of hearing Mass, which was the first celebrated in the archipelago."

You have to admit the conquistadors of the 16th century were nothing if not persistent. Magellan himself was killed for getting involved in a quarrel between Tupas and Lapu-lapu. He was succeeded by Duarte de Barbosa who, in turn, was also killed together with 26 of his men at a banquet given by a native chief. Juan Carballo took over and reached the Moluccas but didn't make it back to Spain either. That honor was reserved for Sebastian el Cano as first circumnavigator of the globe (there were of course others with him, including Enrique de Malaca, but el Cano happened to have been the captain). He arrived home three years after the expedition had set sail in 1522 with only one surviving ship of the five that had set off.

Despite the odds, Charles bankrolled another expedition under Stephen Gomez who was out to discover a new strait in the southern ocean. Alas, his fleet was destroyed in a storm, but another was prepared under Garcia de Loaisa, which sailed in 1524 and immediately encountered storms when they entered the Pacific Ocean, which obviously is a misnomer since it didn't seem to be particularly pacific. Despite the ships being scattered, Loaisa was determined to continue but he died and was succeeded by Sebastian el Cano who soon died, too. Martin Yniquez took over and reached Tidor, but with a fleet that was almost destroyed.

Two decades later the Spanish king still harbored hopes and sent Ruy Lopez de Villalobos (a street in Quiapo where one can buy textiles and groceries was named after him once upon a time). This one though sailed from Mexico. After much trials and tribulations, despite being accompanied by St. Francis Xavier (bet you didn't know that), he ended up in the Moluccas, where he died. The few Spaniards who survived had to return home aboard Portuguese ships, much to their embarrassment.

Another 20 years passed, and Philip II continued the quest, sending Miguel Lopez de Legaspi from the port of Natividad in Mexico accompanied by Fr. Andres de Urdaneta. A few days into the journey, one of the ships commanded by Alonzo Arellano disappeared, something difficult to understand since ships aren't exactly small objects.

The Spaniards went on to explore much of the country in the next 300 years. Here are some facts I wasn't aware of:

There was a Lake Camarin north of Pampanga on the border of Tarlac that was the source of the river Chico. Tarlac had a lake called Mangabo and Nueva Ecija had Lakes Cagayan and Carue on its borders; Lake Nonagan four kilometers from Tabang with a circumference of 2,508 meters; Lake Nagalisan near the town of Alcala; and Lake Talavera. All of these had a great variety of fish.

Aside from what used to be called Rio Grande de Cagayan, which had a length of 330 kilometers and discharged into the China Sea near Aparri, there was also a great lake east of the town of Lal-loc called Laguna de Cagayan, 9 to 10 leagues in length, that swarmed with fish.

Ilocos Norte was described as having a very healthy climate where fogs were frequent. The Spanish were convinced that there was gold "in them thar hills" since Igorots frequently brought nuggets and gold dust to sell but had not found it. Amianthus also existed near the town of Nagpartian. At the time Ilocanos were known for their cotton, silk and linen fabrics which were in great demand in Manila. They raised large herds of cattle and horses, there being excellent grazing lands in the province. They also had forests of calantas, molave, tindalo, narra, ebony, mangachapuy, and exported the wood. Near the towns of Bangui and Nagpartian were springs of medicinal waters. Hot springs could be found near Vintar.

Mindoro had 60 known rivers, and there were others that may not have been known. As for Samar, that poor unfortunate exploited island, there were four lakes and tremendous natural resources, which have improved the economic status of a lot of outsiders but not the Samareños who continue to be some of the poorest of the poor.

(*Data from F.C. Fisher, "Guide for the American in the Philippines," 1899.*)

Le Vagabond

YOUNG BLOOD

Carlos Quilala Santos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

SO, okay, I'm 26 years old, and I have finally decided to do something about the way I look aside from occasionally speaking French.

For years, I cultivated an I-don't-give-a-damn bohémien appearance. After all, who in his right mind would insist on making the rounds with consultants at the hospital wearing *mojos* without socks? (To the uninitiated, *mojos* are sandals that were briefly popular in Diliman in the early 1990s but now almost extinct.)

Having convinced myself during my painfully awkward adolescent years that I was unattractive, I was determined to be superlatively so.

Besides, impersonating a vagabond is economical. You don't have to spend for haircuts, clothes or a moisturizing, replenishing, deep-cleansing facial wash. (Perla works just as well for acne anyway.) In the relative utopia of academia, an unpolished facade isn't a handicap. In fact, you might be mistaken for someone smart or deep. And if you're lucky, some misguided female might even find you mysterious and develop an ephemeral crush on you. Then she would approach you, smile, flip her hair and say: "Hey Carlos! Wasn't Professor Difuntorum's lecture on Jean Jacques Rousseau brilliant?"

In response, you would go, "Uuuuuuhhhhhhh....," being unaccustomed to the attentions of the opposite sex. A brown-haired, broad-shouldered, square-jawed, cocksure varsity basketball player you are not. Looking like a hobo during college certainly offers no advantages, but neither is it harmful—or not in the long run at least. It's only occasionally mortifying.

The world after graduation is different, however. Sadly, appearance matters. As a resident physician at the medical intensive care unit of a community hospital in Muntinlupa, I was in charge of critically ill patients. Like countless other new doctors before me, I was haughtily sauntering down the aisle one evening, with my stethoscope slung sexily (or so I thought) over my left shoulder, and in general, feeling pretty good about myself, when from one of the beds a patient unexpectedly called out, "*Totoy! Totoy! Naiihi ako. Pakikuha nga iyong* bedpan." I felt like the floor suddenly opened up from under me, swiftly devouring my one-man parade in a single, brutal gulp, the laughter of my audience cruelly rising to a strident cackle.

Reeling from supreme embarrassment, I resolved to at least try to look more presentable. I decided to start by getting a haircut from Assanti. In English, I believe, the word means "Ridiculously Expensive Overrated Beauty Salon." Or it could also be "Place Where Rich Matronly Women Get Bikini Waxed, Come Hear their Screams." But thankfully, none of them were there at the time I went there.

A guy named Jonah ushered me to a seat and gingerly tried to shape the mop growing out of my scalp. Being myopic, I couldn't see anything, but since his services cost P300, I was quite confident he knew what he was doing. I expected him to turn me somehow into a distinguished-looking medical practitioner.

I guessed wrong. He was a hair stylist, not a plastic surgeon, after all. After the haircut, I still looked like a 16-year-old, but now with hair combed forward and upward, somewhat resembling the behind of an armadillo. Jonah had put gel on my hair and made it look spiky. I thought I looked like an over-the-hill VJ on shabu, an opinion shared by my dog Lupa who barked at me when I got home.

I headed straight for the bathroom, washed the gel off my hair and laughed at my folly. Appearance matters, but there was no way I was going to spend more than five seconds combing my hair in the morning. It's too much effort for such a trifling thing. There's much more to life than style and image after all. I just hoped that people would somehow learn to look beyond my appearance and judge me on the basis of my competence, integrity and moral courage.

Should that be too much to ask, I suppose I could try dying my temples gray and growing a mustache.

Carlos Quilala Santos, 26, is a biologist and a physician. He doesn't really know how to speak French; he only occasionally looks up words in a French-English dictionary in a vain effort to sound more cultivated.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Three headless bodies

THREE headless bodies were found near the entrance of Cresta Verde Subdivision on Mindanao Avenue, in Quezon City in April 2001. Two of the bodies were later identified as those of Rolando Popanes Jr., 18, and Kenny Azaña, 16. The two victims' heads were recovered in the Marikina River about a month after their bodies were found. The identity of the remaining one remains unknown.

The National Bureau of Investigation and the Central Investigation Unit of the Central Police District conducted a joint investigation. In their report, they said Popanes, Azaña, Gerry Franco and the unidentified victim—all suspected cell-phone snatchers—were rounded up in the Tandang Sora area by two policemen assigned to Station 6 in Batasan Hills, Quezon City. The policemen, PO2 Mario Morales and PO2 Dennis Blasco, then brought the victims to a house inside the Muslim compound in Tandang Sora where they were tortured with their hands tied. While the three victims were being tortured and decapitated with a samurai, Franco was able to escape. The policemen fired at him repeatedly but missed.

On May 24, 2001, Morales and Blasco were charged with three counts of murder before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. Also charged with them were civilians Romeo Adsuara, Rommel Villas and Almario Bernardino. The cases were assigned to Branch 86, Judge Teodoro Bay.

Morales and the accused civilians were arrested on May 30 and detained in Camp Karingal in Quezon City. They pleaded not guilty when arraigned on June 5, 2001. They asked the court to grant them bail although murder is not a bailable offense. On July 10, Adsuara, Villas and Bernardino were transferred to the Quezon City Jail.

On June 13, 2002, Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco informed the court that Blasco had voluntarily surrendered to him in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Blasco was committed to the detention center of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. He also entered a not guilty plea on June 18.

Case status: The prosecution rested its case in February 2003 after it had presented all its witnesses and evidence. Last March 11, the court denied Morales' and the three civilians' petition for bail, owing to the strong evidence presented by the prosecution. The defense is set to begin its presentation of evidence on June 23.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

Helping mother with caged children in Vizcaya

THE FRONT-PAGE photo and story about the four children being kept in a wooden cage caught my attention immediately. (PDI 6/18/03)

As a former police commander, my first question was how I would have handled this situation. Arresting the mother on a child abuse charge and taking custody of the children would be the "logical" thing to do.

But this isn't the United States. Impoverished, widowed mothers without the safety net of a "lola-clan-barangay" network so very common in the Philippines are, well, out in the street. Like the mother in this story.

Two of her children have already been farmed out to relatives. The remaining four the mother is determined to take care of as best as she can. Necessity, the mother of invention, "explains" the cage.

To make money to feed her kids, and to keep them from getting run over in the street while she does her work, all the mother has done was create a "Filipino version" of a fenced-in American yard!

The INQUIRER story goes on to explain the generosity of many who helped ease the family's plight. Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to coordinate the contributions sent to her, something impossible for the mother to do alone as she attends to her small business.

Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rudolfo Agbayani, for example, donated a small house. Rep. Carlos Padilla sought financial assistance from private businesses. His chief of staff, Sonny Lugares, set up a PNB trust account for her. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit allocated medical supplies and medications, including vitamins. A nice package from some nice people, but still two years late. There is no one to bring all this to the mother who earns P50 a day while she takes care of the house and her four babies whom she can't afford to send to school.

The local Catholic Church, for its part, has offered to "institutionalize" the quadruplets. But what mother (or father) wants that? Being a "parent" means being there for your children. Even if it means putting them in a cage so you can work to put food on the table.

Again, one person, a coordinator, is all that seems necessary to translate promises already given into action. You don't need an MBA to do this. But you do need to put yourself in this poor mother's shoes.

—ELLIOTT ANDERSON,
Pan-Ay Clarin,
Misamis Occidental

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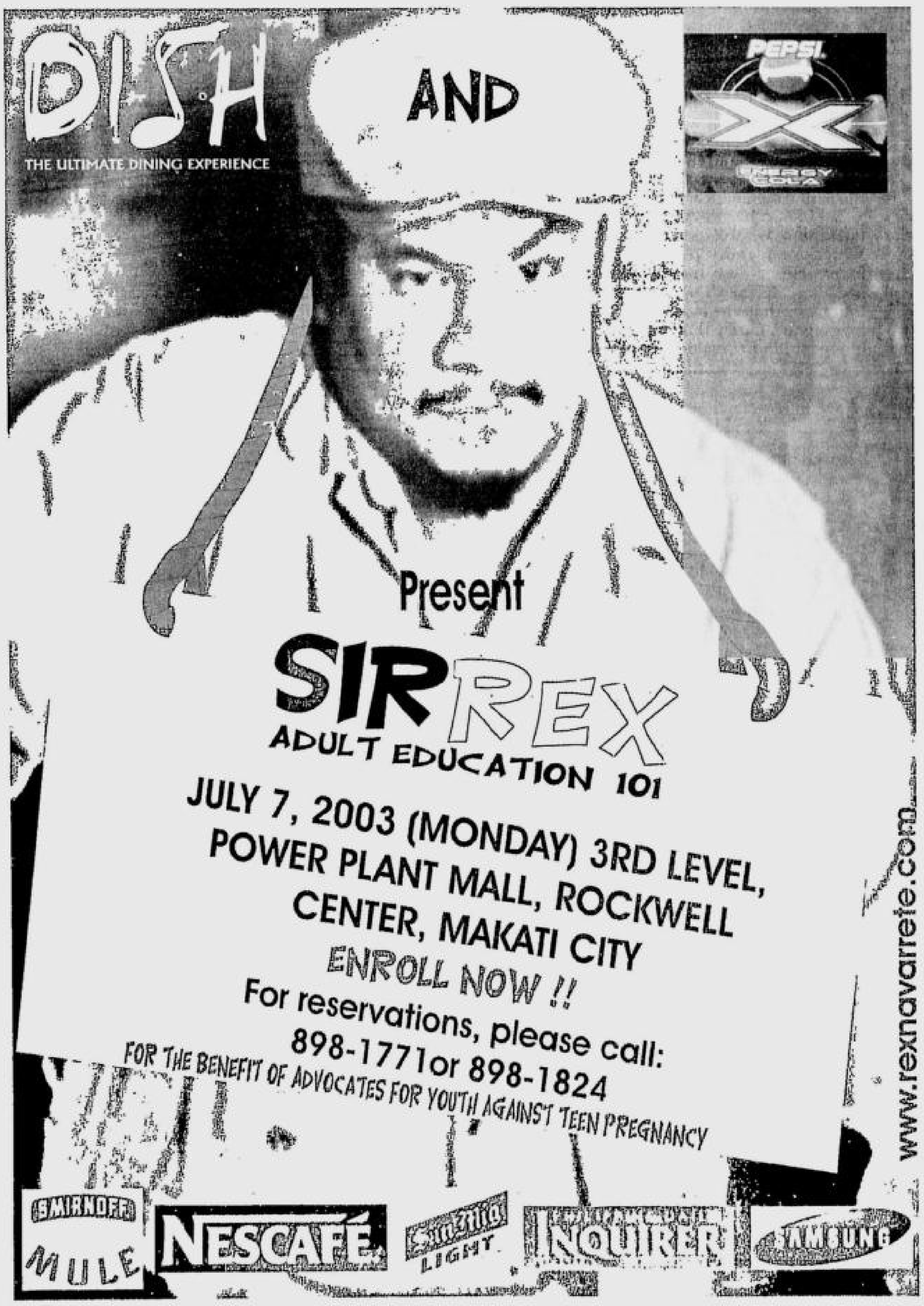

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Valid IDs for Meralco refund

THIS has reference to the letter of Ma. Lourdes S. Hernandez last June 19, who wrote about her "annoying experience" at our Meralco Batangas office where she went to claim her refund.

We would like to apologize if she felt she had a tough time in getting her refund. However, we would also like to give our side.

Our Refund Management Task Force has developed the procedures and defined requirements for Phase 1 of the refund based on the service contract, including the exercise of due diligence in granting the cash refund. The procedures approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission ensures that the refund will benefit the registered customer either in cash or credit to future bills.

The approved procedures specifically mention what are considered as valid IDs for purposes of the refund.

According to the head of our Batangas branch, Edgar Vargas, Hernandez initially presented her old SSS card and TIN, both of which had no pictures. Since these were not among those considered as valid IDs, she was offered to have her refund credited to her future bills, which she refused. She then went to see the branch head who, after examining her IDs, approved her request for a cash refund.

Indeed, we intended that exceptions, such as this case, be decided by supervisors to protect our customers from unscrupulous individuals who might misrepresent themselves to claim the refund. Fake IDs abound and we consider the crediting of the refund amount to future bills as a sure way to prevent the refund from being collected by someone who is not entitled to it.

The incident happened on the first days of the refund. We eventually decided to honor other IDs and documents such as Philhealth ID with picture and signature, senior citizen's ID, firearms license, original NBI clearance and credit card with picture.

Our main concern is the protection of our customers who are entitled to the refund.

—ROSARIO M. TORRES,
project manager,
Refund Management Task Force,
Meralco, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

World's biggest lake is in Central Africa

THIS is in reaction to the article, titled "Laguna de Bay joins living lakes." It said that Lake Baikal in East Siberia, Russia, was the biggest and deepest fresh water lake in the world with an area of 12,000 square miles and a maximum depth of 5,000 feet and during winter time Lake Baikal is frozen.

Please be informed that there is a fresh water lake bigger than Lake Baikal. This is Lake Tangyanika in Central Africa. It is a long, narrow lake with an area of 12,700 square miles, separating Tanzania and Burundi from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Since there is no winter in these countries, this lake supplies fresh water throughout the year.

I am familiar with this lake because I stayed in Zambia for three years. I was hired by the Zambia Agricultural Development Bank as credit specialist and consultant to the Zambia World Bank-funded Fisheries Development project from 1985 until 1988. The project site was in Lake Tangyanika.

—GUILLERMO M. ALONSO,
357-B Duterte St.,
Banawa, Cebu City

Fake death certificate stops vet's pension

MY appeal to the PVAO administrator has not been answered. I am a World War II veteran, and my monthly pension was stopped since November 2002. My application was approved in May 1997 and my name was listed under Master List No. 2682.

My monthly pension used to be directly deposited in my bank account with the Philippine Veterans Bank, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Then on Nov. 25, 2002 I went to my bank and the teller told me that my check had not arrived yet. I was advised to check with the PVAO supervisor in Dagupan.

There, I was told that somebody named Aurora had submitted a death certificate in my behalf, and that checks were being sent to another address.

I never requested the PVAO to change my mailing address. That death certificate was obviously fake since I am very much alive. My wife's name is not Aurora. My wife's real name is Carlota Ferrer Fernandez and we have been married for the last 63 years.

—JOSE SISON FERNANDEZ,
94 Pangapisan North (Dike),
2401 Lingayen, Pangasinan

Fond memories of Bacani

MY home is where Bishop Ted Bacani ate his first dinner in Caloocan after he was appointed to take charge of the Calmana diocese.

That was in 1996. It was a simple dinner and yet the bishop had a hearty meal which warmed the heart of my mother who had prepared the dishes.

As he entered our home, he put his arms around my mother, then put his cheek over her forehead. Up until today, at age 85, she still fondly recalls the gesture.

Since then, every now and then, we would meet the bishop and he never fails to ask how the children are doing. He shows sincere concern for people. And when he speaks, his voice touches the heart. We are always pleased to see him.

Bishop Bacani was misinterpreted. Whatever motives lie behind some people's actions, I can only wish that they are guided by truth and not personal gain.

—RAQUEL M. SO-SAYO, M.D.,
medical director,
MCU-FDTMF Hospital,
rss_meddir@yahoo.com

Will MILF face punishment?

I AM happy with the statement of MILF Chairman Salamat Hashim renouncing terror and links with the Jemaah Islamiya. The MILF has never owned up to extortion and criminal activities. It has always put the blame on some "lost commands" and not MILF regulars. But the MILF did admit some bombings in Mindanao.

I believe in the peace talks, and maybe Salamat is sincere. Perhaps he is already tired of all the fighting. Maybe his conscience has finally caught up with him. Maybe his advisers told him that it is the best thing to do. This is good for the country.

But if all goes well, will the MILF face punishment for all those who have been victimized one way or another?

—GENE B. TAMAYO,
663-1 C Aurora Quezon St.,
Davao City

Crossing Elliptical Road very risky

WE would like to appeal to the authorities to bring back the road islands—never mind the additional expense—along the Quezon rotunda, or the Elliptical Road in Diliman, to minimize vehicular accidents and ensure safe access for pedestrians going to or coming from the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Countless people consider the Circle their sanctuary, but it has become quite inaccessible especially for those who have no vehicles and who can reach it only by crossing Elliptical Road—at great risk.

Cleared of the concrete islands that served as the pedestrians' buffer against the ever increasing number of cars, jeeps, vans, buses and trucks that have come to mean only one thing in our daily lives—traffic—the road has become like a freeway. On many occasions, we have had to brace ourselves as vehicles rush in from either left or right. So far, we have been luckier than other motorists who have navigated the stretch.

Two policemen assigned to the Quezon City Hall police detachment said that many pedestrians have been injured "doing the cha-cha," which was how they called what poor citizens have to do to cross the street. And they said it gets worse at night or when it rains.

What about the old people?

The stoplights are still there, all right, now flashing green, then yellow, then red, but no one follows them. The safety of pedestrians who cross the Elliptical Road has been left to chance. Nothing is being done to ensure that fatal accidents don't happen there. Even the bikers' lane outside the Circle fence has been appropriated by motorists.

—JOSE C. PAPA and ANA VER-PAPA,
bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

2 US troops abducted, 2 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—American troops and helicopters scoured the desert Thursday for two US soldiers who were apparently abducted from an observation post north of Baghdad. Ambushes and hostile fire elsewhere in Iraq killed at least one US soldier and two Iraqi civilians and wounded eight other Americans.

A day after a US Marine was killed responding to an ambush on Americans, reports of attacks on US troops appeared almost hourly—too frequent for military press officers to keep up with. Most of the information came from witnesses at the attack scenes.

Between Wednesday and Thursday, assailants blew up a US military vehicle with a roadside bomb, dropped grenades from an overpass, destroyed a civilian SUV traveling with US troops, demolished an oil pipeline and fired an apparent rocket-propelled grenade at a US Army truck.

Officials played down the violence, but with shattered glass, blood stains and mangled vehicles littering the landscape, the upsurge in attacks is causing concern that the US-led occupation of Iraq could be turning into a guerrilla war.

In the latest and most serious reported attacks:

- A member of a US special operations force was killed and eight were wounded Thursday morning by hostile fire southwest of Baghdad, a Central Command statement said, giving no further details. The same day, an explosive device went off on the Baghdad airport road, killing a US soldier, soldiers at the scene said. It was not immediately clear if the incident on the airport road and the one referred to in the Central Command statement were the same.
- In another ambush, assailants threw grenades at a US and Iraqi civilian convoy in west Baghdad, killing two Iraqi employees of the national electricity authority, US soldiers and Iraqi police said. The convoy had US Humvees at the front and the back and two Iraqi civilian vehicles in the middle. The victims were traveling in the same car.

A military spokesperson, Maj. William Thurmond, said the spate of ambushes could be a response to recent US raids on Baath party strongholds.

"There have been more attacks recently, but it's probably premature to say this is part of a pattern," Thurmond said. "We've kicked open the nests of some of these bad guys."

An Iraqi police official, Brig. Ahmed Khazem, called the ambushes "isolated actions... carried out by individual mercenaries."

The Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera, however, aired statements Thursday from two previously unknown groups urging assaults on US-led forces in Iraq.

One, by a group calling itself the Mujahedeen of the Victorious Sect, claimed responsibility for recent attacks and promised more. The other, by the Popular Resistance for the Liberation of Iraq, called for "revenge" against America.

Al-Jazeera said it could not verify the statements.

Two US officials familiar with intelligence information said they had not previously heard of the groups issuing the statements and had no way to know whether they were credible. *AP*

Saddam hunt intensifies after attacks

BAGHDAD—The hunt for Saddam Hussein is taking on new urgency due to the rise in attacks on US forces and to concern that his possible return could spur revolt against US forces and frighten off Iraqis from cooperating with American reconstruction efforts.

On Thursday alone, two soldiers were killed and two others were reported missing and apparently abducted.

The US Army is being inundated with tips about Saddam's alleged whereabouts, and an elite special operations force is carrying out hundreds of raids and setting up checkpoints throughout central Iraq.

It's an open question whether Saddam is alive, but getting an answer is important, Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, nominated to replace Gen. Tommy Franks as head of US Central Command, told a US Senate panel Wednesday.

"It's important because the fear factor is high. It's important because he was a brutal dictator that killed hundreds of thousands of his own people, and it's important for the Iraqi people to come to closure with this nightmare that he imposed upon them," he said.

The Americans have assembled a secret team of Special Forces, called Task Force 20, to hunt down Saddam and his sons, Odai and Qusai, and other members of his inner circle.

US Major Josslyn Aberle and Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald, of the Army's Fourth Infantry Division, declined to disclose details about Task Force 20's methods and operations, citing security concerns. But they agreed to speak generally about the hunt for Saddam.

The Task Force uses standard equipment such as Bradley fighting vehicles, Humvees and helicopters, Aberle said. Special detachments from regular Army units provide checkpoints, cordon off areas and supply additional ground forces for raids, she said.

"They meld in with the rest of the troops," Aberle said. "We keep very quiet about Task Force 20 for a reason: they're effective."

How effective remains to be seen. The challenge facing the US forces is to capture Saddam by overcoming his stealthy maneuvers and continuing hold on a segment of the population in the Sunni stronghold of central Iraq, said MacDonald and Aberle. *AP*

US ready to act alone vs Iran, N. Korea—Rice

LONDON—US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice has indicated that the United States is ready to act alone against Iran and North Korea if European countries do not cooperate in stopping them from developing nuclear weapons, the Daily Telegraph reported Friday.

"If we do not want a 'Made in America' solution, let's find out how to resolve the issues of North Korea and Iran," the paper quoted Rice as saying during a visit to London Thursday.

Rice sought to play down the prospect of a war against Iran, saying: "We do not ever want to have to deal with the proliferation issue as we did in Iraq."

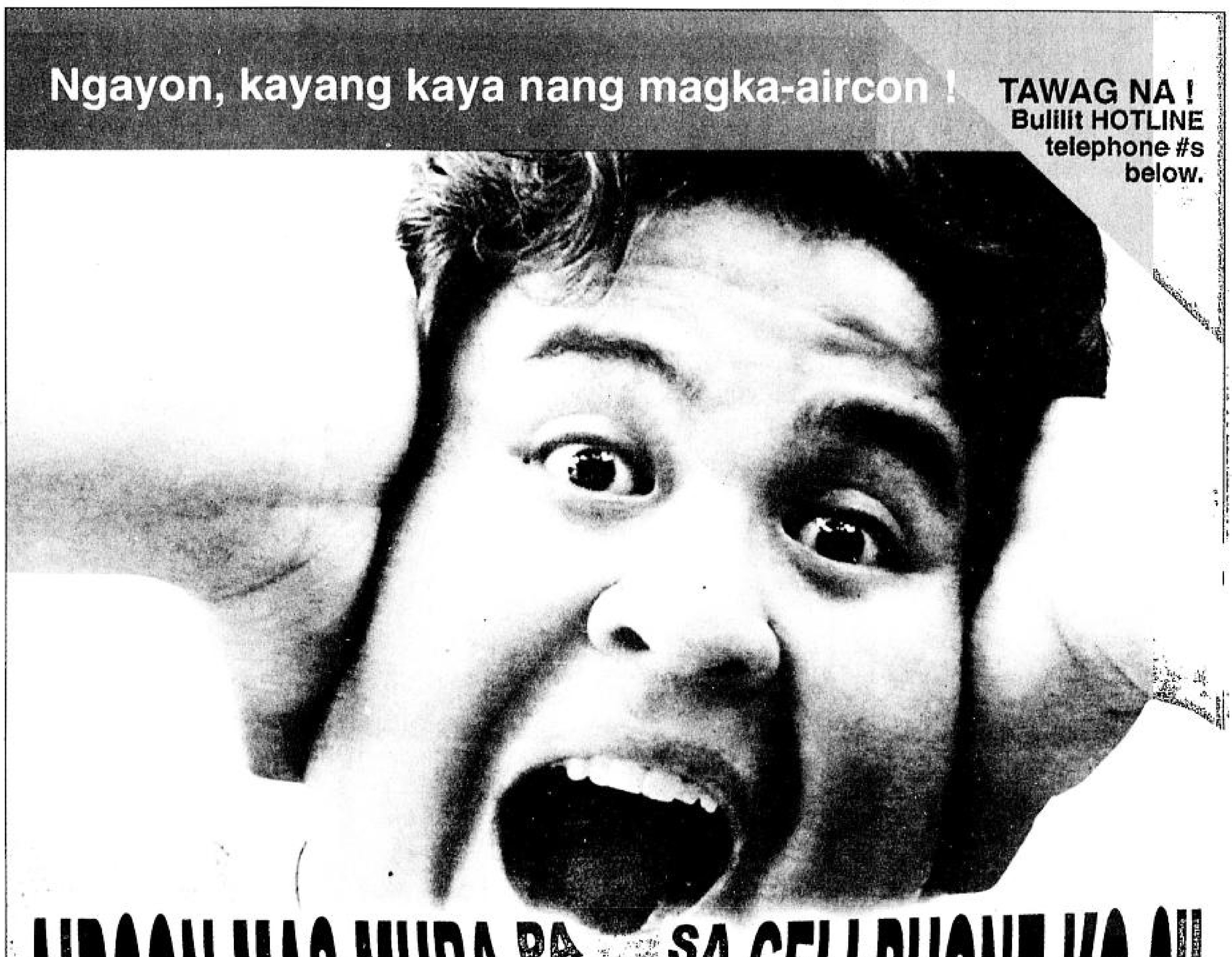
However, according to the right-wing Telegraph, her comments had echoes of the blunt talking that surrounded the debate before the Iraq war.

Rice accused Iran of seeking secretly to build nuclear weapons, and vowed that North Korea would not be allowed to "blackmail" the world with threats to resume its nuclear program, according to the newspaper.

But she said the US sought international cooperation and that Iran's program was best dealt with by convincing Tehran to agree to intrusive inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Addressing the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, Rice said North Korea was best addressed by regional powers exerting pressure.

But she did not rule out military action, the Telegraph reported. "The avoidance of war is not in itself a final goal," she said. "Sometimes one has to fight wars to deal with tyrants." Later she added: "We want a multilateral solution. But we do want a solution." *AFP*



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Riyadh bombing mastermind in Saudi custody

WASHINGTON—The mastermind of the May bombings in Riyadh has been taken into custody in Saudi Arabia, US and Saudi officials said on Thursday.

Saudi officials said the suspect, Ali Abdulrachman Saeed al-Faqa'asi Al-Ghamdi, also known as Abu Bakr al-Azdi, a senior Saudi-based al-Qaida operative, surrendered to the Saudi assistant minister of interior for security affairs.

But the US official said the man was "captured."

"This is a major arrest and a huge victory in the war against terrorism," Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, said in a statement.

"Al-Ghamdi is in custody and under interrogation. We hope that our interrogations will provide information that will lead to additional arrests," he added.

The US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, challenged the Saudi officials' notion of surrender, saying the suspect was caught.

Nevertheless, "This is a very serious blow to al-Qaida," the official said. "This was a key al-Qaida figure in the kingdom and has knowledge of ongoing and future terrorist planning and also would know al-Qaida operatives and Saudi cells."

"It's very significant... He is believed to have played a key role in the planning and execution of the Riyadh bombings," he added.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters after talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio that Washington had not received confirmation yet that Al-Ghamdi was in custody.

"If it turns out to be true, we will be very, very pleased that this terrorist has been brought to justice but I can't confirm it yet," Powell said.

Car bombs on May 12 ripped apart buildings and homes in three compounds in Riyadh inhabited by Americans and other Westerners, killing 35 people, including eight Americans.

The devastating attack shattered any sense that Saudi Arabia might be immune to extremist fundamentalists who have declared war against the United States and also on the kingdom.

It also increased pressure on Saudi Arabia to crack down more intensely on Saudi-based al-Qaida elements and those who helped to finance the group, which is blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

A senior member of Saudi Arabia's ruling family said after the blast that the royal house must not flinch from acknowledging it had a serious problem with a violent Islamic opposition.

"It's time to face reality head-on. There's no need to procrastinate, no room for error," Prince Alwaleed bin Talal said. "We have to acknowledge we have a disease called terrorism. There's no doubt about that any more." Stung by US criticism his government was not doing enough to control the extremists, Crown Prince Abdullah, the kingdom's de facto ruler, promised to make the suicide bombers pay and allowed American FBI and CIA agents to join the hunt.

The US teams are believed to be still operating in Saudi Arabia but their role in al-Gamdi's apprehension was unclear.

More than 40 suspected "terrorists" have been arrested in the kingdom since the May 12 Riyadh bombings, Saudi officials say.

Last week, an Arab newspaper reported that Saudi police arrested four members of "an armed cell" after a shootout in Mecca, hours after suspected Islamic militants were killed in a police raid in the Muslim holy city.

Al-Ghamdi was thought to be planning operations against US targets, possibly within Saudi Arabia or perhaps elsewhere.

He fought on the frontlines of Afghanistan and was believed to be present at the beginning of the battle of Tora Bora but left before the heavy US bombing of that area began, a US official said.

He has been linked to key al-Qaida leaders including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and would have been very knowledgeable about al-Qaida activities within Saudi Arabia.

He is close to 30 years old, believed to be born around 1974. *Reuters*

عبدالرحمن سعد الفقعسي، الغامدي

AL-GHAMDI

BBC defends reporting over Iraqi weapons

LONDON—The British Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday sharply rejected a charge by Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications director that it lied about the government's use of intelligence on Iraqi weapons.

The dispute centers on a BBC report that Blair's chief spin doctor, Alastair Campbell, was involved in redrafting an intelligence service dossier to emphasize a claim that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of Saddam Hussein giving the order to do so.

On Wednesday, Campbell testified before a parliamentary inquiry into the government's use of intelligence to bolster its case that the threat from Iraqi weapons justified military action.

"I find it incredible... that people can report, based on one single anonymous, uncorroborated source... that the prime minister, the Cabinet, the intelligence agencies, people like myself, connived to persuade Parliament to send British forces into action on a lie," Campbell told the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

"Until the BBC acknowledge that is a lie, I will keep banging on... and they better issue an apology pretty quick."

But the director of BBC News, Richard Sambrook, on Thursday denied that the network had ever accused Blair of lying and leading the country to war on a false premise.

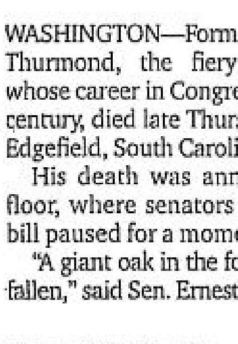
"We have never suggested anything of that kind," he told BBC radio. "We're not going to apologize for something we haven't said... I think Alastair Campbell seriously misrepresented the BBC's journalism." *AP*

Ex-US senator Thurmond; 100

WASHINGTON—Former US senator Strom Thurmond, the fiery former segregationist whose career in Congress spanned nearly half a century, died late Thursday in his hometown of Edgefield, South Carolina. He was 100.

His death was announced on the Senate floor, where senators debating a health-care bill paused for a moment of silence.

"A giant oak in the forest of public service has fallen," said Sen. Ernest Hollings, who represented South Carolina together with Thurmond for 36 years.



THURMOND

Born Dec. 5, 1902, Thurmond retired Jan. 5 after nearly 48 years in office, longer than any other US senator.

His son, Strom Thurmond Jr., told ABC television his father had been living in a newly renovated wing of a hospital in Edgefield since his retirement from the Senate five months ago.

Thurmond was best known for his fiery opposition to racial integration. As South Carolina's governor, he ran for president in 1948 under the banner of the "Dixiecrats," a group of anti-civil rights southern Democrats.

At his 100th birthday party in December, fellow Republican Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi said life in the United States would have been better if others had followed his state's lead in supporting Thurmond's campaign.

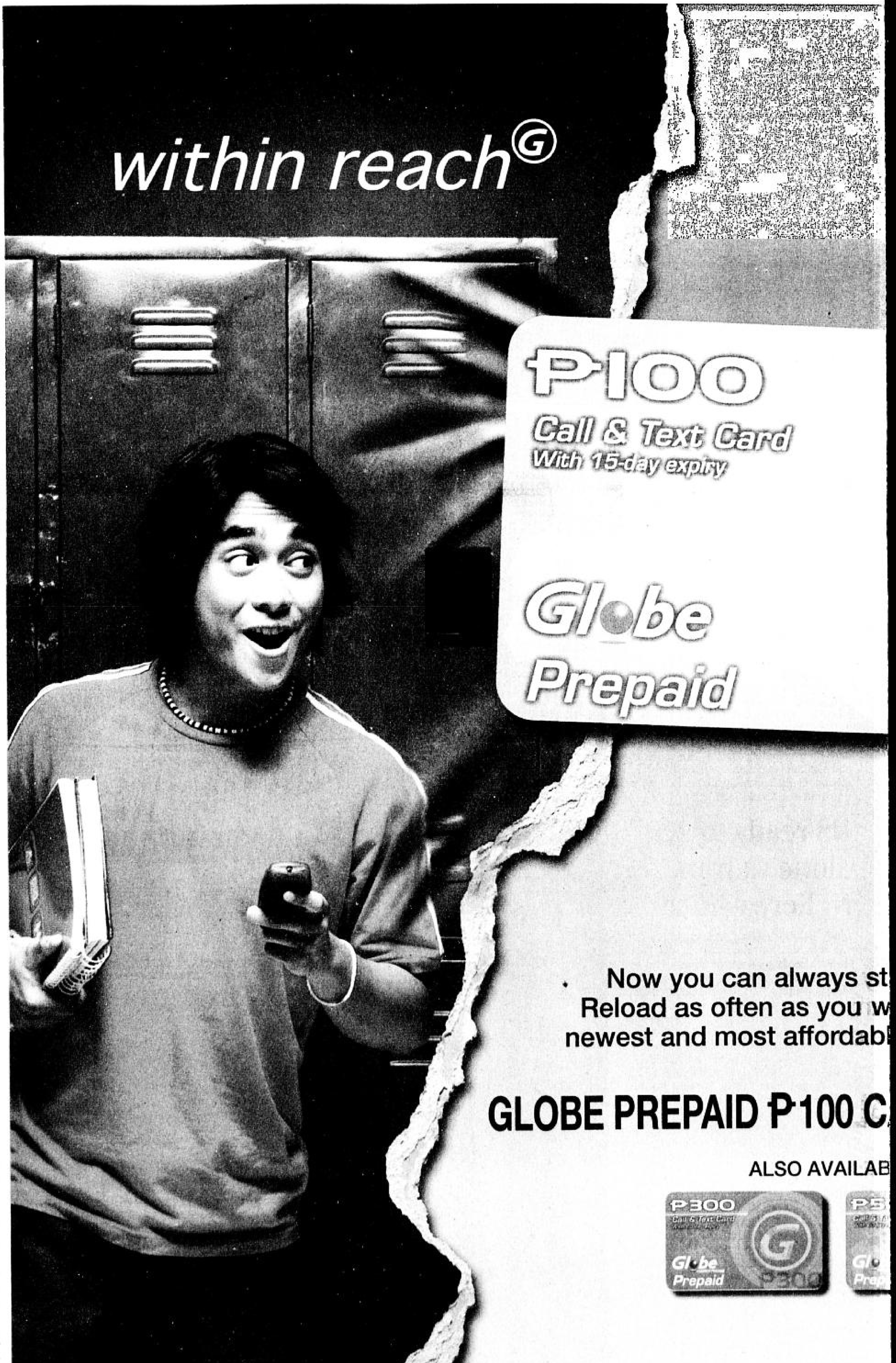
"We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years," said Lott.

Lott was forced to resign as Senate majority leader in the wake of those remarks, which embarrassed Republicans by reminding many of their past opposition to civil rights for black Americans and drew a sharp rebuke from President George W. Bush.

First elected to the Senate as a Democrat in 1954, Thurmond soon became known for his strong support of the military, the death penalty and the rights of gun owners.

He switched parties in 1964, becoming the first of many southern Democrats to defect to the Republicans over the issue of race.

That year, Thurmond wrestled a colleague to the floor in an attempt to stop committee action on a civil rights bill. *AFP*



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Structure of HIV antibody tracked; AIDS vaccine soon?

WASHINGTON—Scientists have unraveled the structure of an antibody that effectively neutralizes the HIV virus which causes AIDS, the key to a possible vaccine against the fatal acquired immune deficiency syndrome, according to a report released Thursday.

"What we found was an unusual configuration of the antibody in which its two Fab domains—the antigen recognition units —are 'interdigitating' with each other," Scripps Research Institute Professor Ian Wilson wrote in the latest issue of the journal Science.

"Nothing like this has ever been seen before," said Wilson, one of the two Scripps professors who led the research.

"This new structure is an important step toward the goal of designing an effective vaccine against HIV, and it gives researchers a new way to design antibodies in general," said the article.

"It may enable us to make antibodies that recognize whole new sets of molecules," wrote Scripps Prof. Dennis Burton, the other leader of the research.

In the same issue of Science, 24 internationally known health and research personalities called for a redoubling of efforts to find a vaccine against AIDS, which is projected to kill some 70 million people by 2020.

"Since the discovery of HIV 20 years ago and the demonstration that HIV is the cause of AIDS, the world has awaited the development of an effective preventive vaccine," they wrote.

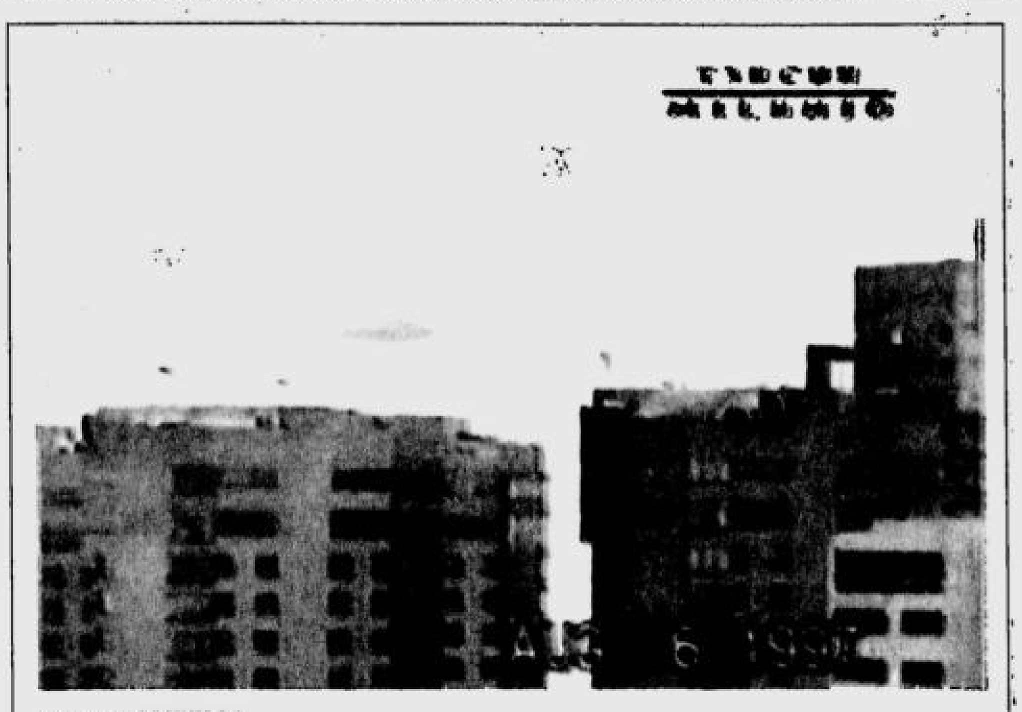
"Almost everyone involved in HIV vaccine development agrees that there is an urgent need to create and to evaluate systematically more candidate vaccines.... The pace... needs to be accelerated."

The Scripps team explained that HIV causes AIDS "by binding to, entering and ultimately killing "T" helper cells, immune cells that are necessary to fight off infections by common bacteria and other pathogens.

"As HIV depletes the body of T helper cells, common pathogens can become potentially lethal."

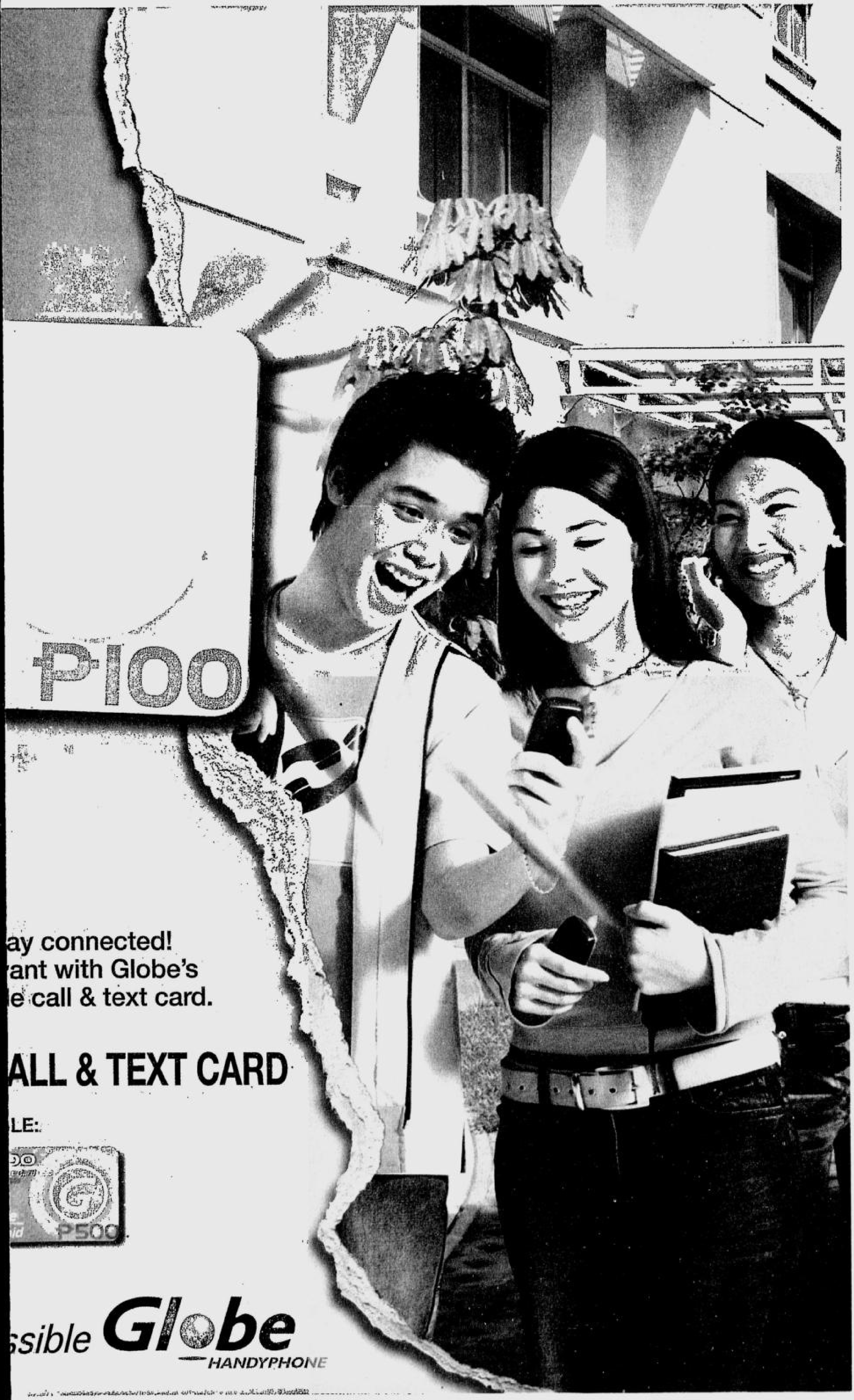
The World Health Organization estimates that around 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide, the article noted.

"During 2001 alone, more than four million men, woman and children succumbed to the disease, and by the end of that year, the disease had made orphans of 14 million children," it said. *AFP*



UFO SIGHTING

An alleged UFO appears in the skies above Moscow in this frame grab from television, Aug. 6, 1997. The Sci-Fi channel has embarked on a campaign to convince the government to be more forthcoming and aggressive in investigating UFO sightings. AP



US high court legalizes anal sex in homes

NEW YORK—Gays across America welcomed a Supreme Court decision on Thursday that legalized anal and oral sex in their homes, and experts said the ruling could pave the way for eventually legalizing gay marriage.

The ruling was lauded from New York's Greenwich Village to San Francisco's Castro district. Conservative groups denounced it as a defeat for public morality.

Marty Kantougay, a gay man in New York, called it, "the best thing that's ever happened, even better than sliced white bread."

Boston gay activist Josh Friedes, said, "Gays and lesbians are no longer a disfavored class of people." Mayor Jeffrey Prang, the mayor of West Hollywood, California, who is gay, called the ruling an important step "in the continuing struggle for civil rights for all."

By a 6-3 vote, the nation's highest court declared that a Texas law on what some states have called deviate sex acts was an unwarranted government violation of the right to privacy.

The court also took the rare step of overturning its 1986 ruling upholding a Georgia law that meant gays had no constitutional right to engage in sodomy in private.

The 30-year-old Texas "homosexual conduct" law makes it a crime for same-sex couples to engage in oral and anal sex, even if it is consensual and occurs in their own bedrooms.

US Rep. Barney Frank, an openly gay Democrat, told reporters in Washington, "This is a great day for liberty. I think this is a clear evidence... America isn't really homophobic. It just use to think it was supposed to be."

In San Francisco's mostly gay Castro neighborhood, one gay man, Ken Emery, said, "It is about damn time."

"These laws have been used to bash us for far too long," he said. And while the decision would have no practical impact in San Francisco, he said, "it still has a huge bearing on advancing gay rights."

But not everybody was impressed.

Alan Goldman, an elderly New York man donning a Panama hat, said, "I don't believe in sodomy." *Reuters*

Texas woman found guilty in car death case

FORT WORTH, Texas—A Texas jury took less than an hour on Thursday to find a woman guilty of murdering a homeless man she struck with her car and left to die stuck in the windshield.

MALLARD

Chante Mallard, testifying later during the trial's punishment phase, tearfully apologized for the crime and blamed it on illegal drugs.

The 27-year-old former nurse's aide could face life in prison for killing Gregg Biggs, 37.

More testimony was scheduled for Friday, after which the jury was to determine Mallard's punishment. In addition to her murder conviction, she pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence, which has a maximum punishment of 10 years.

Mallard hit Biggs after a night of drinking and drug use, then drove the nearly 3.2 km home with him stuck in the windshield, his body hanging down into the car and his legs sprawled on the hood.

Prosecutors said she left Biggs to slowly die in her darkened garage over the next few hours while she plotted with friends on how to dispose of the body.

Mallard said she was afraid of getting arrested, but said the ecstasy, marijuana and booze she had that night while out with friends addled her thoughts.

"Drugs, they have destroyed my life," she said.

She described the moment of impact when glass came flying into the car and suddenly there was a man hanging into her car through the windshield.

"I had never seen no one like that before," she said. "I was scared and I didn't know what to do." *Reuters*

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Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 411 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Army says MNLF behind mayor's slay

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The attackers of Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay Mayor Moises Araham belong to the Moro National Liberation Front, according to Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko yesterday.

He pointed out that while the MNLF signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996, some of its members, particularly in Western Mindanao, continued to hold on to their firearms.

Kyamko said the military has ascertained the identity of the two slain suspects. They are Ahial Anuddin and Ali Ompoc, both assigned with the MNLF's Marines command operating in Zamboanga del Sur.

But he could not say who masterminded the attack.

Kyamko said the military and the police would invite MNLF leaders in the province to shed light on the participation of some of their men in the assassination of Araham.

Araham, 45, who was known for jailing those destroying the environment, including his friends, died in an ambush on Thursday morning.

He was leading a Bantay-Dagat patrol in the coastlines of his town around 5 a.m. when the attack occurred.

Supt. Raul Gomez, Zamboanga Sibugay police chief, told the INQUIRER that Araham's group was moving towards two pump boats to check on the activities of its passengers when they were fired upon.

The executive was fatally hit as his escorts fought the attackers back.

"The mayor's escorts were not able to sustain the firefight when he was hit. They immediately withdrew, hoping to save him," Gomez said.

He said Araham was being brought to a hospital when he expired.

Alberto Alcoriza Jr., an ex-seminarian and also an environmentalist, said Araham had been fighting for the environment even before he became a public official.

"He did not put a distinction between those engaged in illegal fishing activities. He did not spare even his friends," Alcoriza said.

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, commander of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, agreed.

"He was very strict when it came to the implementation of municipal fishing laws," Ramboanga said.

Alcoriza suspected that Araham was killed by people "whose toes he stepped upon because of his anti-illegal fishing campaign." *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ouster of regional cop chief pressed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The four top local government officials of Central Mindanao have joined the call for the ouster of the highest police official in the region.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes told reporters she and her counterparts in Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato have agreed to petition President Macapagal-Arroyo for the relief of regional police director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor.

Tor, an alleged protege of Malacañang, assumed as regional police director more than a month ago.

Shortly after his assumption, illegal numbers game, particularly *jueteng*, had proliferated.

Tor, however, denied any involvement in illegal gambling in the region.

He said some people have mounted a smear campaign against him because of his anti-gambling directives.

"All of us governors in the region wanted Tor removed from his post because of the scandal brought about by his alleged involvement in jueteng operations," Fuentes said.

Fuentes said she wrote Tor a letter several days ago asking him to shed light on his alleged involvement in illegal gambling, but instead of clarifying the issue, Tor sent a report containing the police's accomplishments.

"He (Tor) did not categorically answer my question about his alleged involvement in illegal gambling operations in the region," Fuentes said.

Earlier, members of the General Santos tri-media also asked Malacañang to oust Tor so that public confidence on the police in the region could be restored.

The local press claimed that Tor had lost his credibility as the highest police officer in the region.

City officials said they were gathering more documents that could prove Tor was indeed behind the proliferation of illegal numbers game in the region. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

IFUGAO HARVEST E.V ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pig entrails sprinkled with rice grains are set aside in a ritual with this year's rice harvests in Kiangan town, Ifugao.

7 Bugkalots die, 55 others afflicted with malaria in Nueva Vizcaya villages

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Seven Bugkalots have died of malaria in four upland villages in the province, health officials confirmed on Friday.

Officials of the National Epidemiology Center said most of those who died came from remote barangays in Alfonso Castañeda town, some 150 km from here.

The Department of Health admitted the shortage of medicines that had hampered efforts to contain the malaria outbreak in the four villages.

Dr. Gerna May-as of the National Epidemiology Center asked the Department of Health and the provincial and municipal governments for emergency purchases of anti-malaria medicines.

"The outbreak is ongoing and we need to have an adequate stock of medicines in case many more cases are found and the rate of infection continues to rise," May-as said.

On Monday, medical teams from the DOH and the local health offices conducted a house-to-house treatment and investigation of the malaria epidemic. *Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-NBI agent kills Dumaguete cop

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A former agent of the National Bureau of Investigation shot and killed a member of the 705th Provincial Mobile Group yesterday dawn following a heated argument in Barangay Looc here.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete police chief identified the fatality as SPO2 Roberto Abellar, 46, and a resident of Sibulan town, about 6 km north of here.

Barot said Abellar suffered a lone bullet wound below his armpit.

The suspect was identified as Selwyn Tayrus, 42, married of Calindagan, Dumaguete and a son of a retired regional trial court judge.

Tayrus suffered a bullet wound in the leg and was confined at a local hospital.

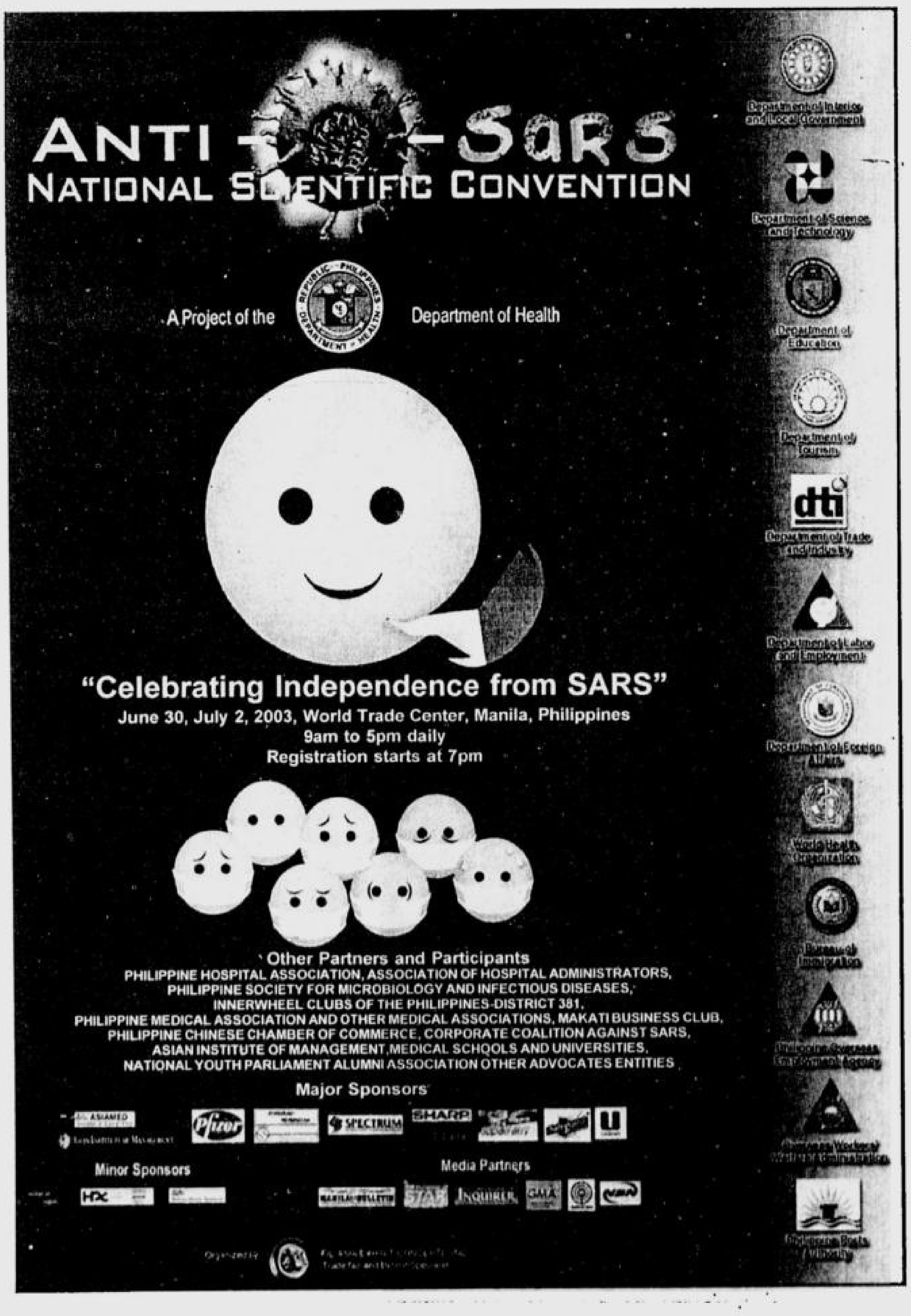
Initial police investigation showed that Abellar and Tayrus had a heated argument at about 2:25 a.m. in the vicinity of the Looc Terminal.

It was not known what caused the argument although Barot said personal grudge could have been one of the possible reasons.

He added that the police had yet to determine who fired the first shot.

But Barot said Tayrus and a companion identified as Mande Flores, 19, immediately fled on board a motorcycle after the shooting incident.

Police, however, intercepted the two at the Looc by-pass road.



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Albay's anti-drug drive yields 2 top suspected drug pushers

GUINOBATAN, Albay—The Albay police arrested two suspected big-time pushers here, two days after Guinobatan town launched a massive campaign against illegal drugs and conducted a compulsory drug test for all its officials and employees.

Suspects Jude Minas and Wilfrido Garfin were arrested Tuesday by virtue of a warrant issued by Judge Antonio Bagangan.

The operation was an immediate result of the all-out campaign against illegal drugs in Guinobatan, said Mayor Christopher Flores, who joined the police operation.

"We did this kind of operation because we were pretty sure that they were involved in illegal drugs. Many pieces of evidence will prove it," Flores said.

He was the first mayor in the Bicol region to voluntarily submit himself to a drug test.

Minas and Garfin had already been under the surveillance of Guinobatan police since the anti-drugs campaign of Flores started.

The two suspects were allegedly engaged in drug trafficking in Guinobatan.

Intelligence reports said Minas and Garfin were the "primary sources" of drugs in their town, Flores said.

Supt. Pete Tango, provincial police director, said this "successful operation" was only a part of their continuous effort to curb the rampant use and possession of illegal drugs in Albay.

In Bagtang, Daraga, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Legazpi arrested a 17-year-old freshman nursing student at the Aquinas University during a buy-bust operation on Tuesday.

Confiscated from the suspect, who is a resident of Libon, Albay, was 15 milligrams of shabu contained in a sachet that was sold for P500.

The CIDG-Legazpi said they only chanced upon the suspect.

CIDG-Legazpi head Chief Insp. Luisito Bolivar said the boy's case is non-bailable since under RA 9165 (Comprehensive Drugs Law) anyone caught selling drugs in the act automatically could not file a bail.

The suspect's parents are based in Qatar. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Quake rocks Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY—An Intensity 6 earthquake shook Masbate province, at 10:11 p.m. Thursday, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 5.5 was tectonic in origin due to the movement of the Philippine fault zone located some 25 km south of Masbate, according to Phivolcs. Intensity 4 was experienced in Sorsogon, Intensity 3 in Palo, Leyte and Roxas City and Intensity 1 in Albay. Aftershocks are expected, said Phivolcs. Supt. Romeo Mapalo, Masbate police director, said no reports of damages have reached their office so far. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Two killed in shootout

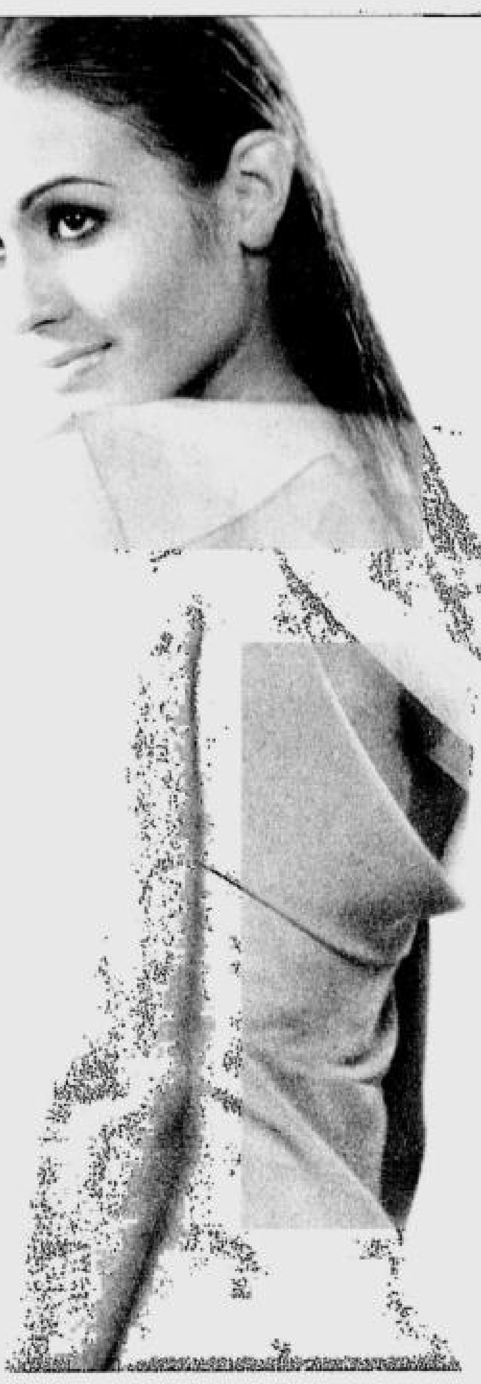
CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two of four suspected hold-up men were killed in a shootout when policemen chanced upon the group who were then robbing an Indian national along the national road in Barangay Imok, Calauan, Laguna on Wednesday. Police chief Supt. Henry Asutin said they were conducting operations when they saw two of the suspects pointing their pistols at victim Harpal Singh, 30, an Indian national engaged in money lending. Police said they tried to talk with the group but were shot at by the suspects. The police shot back killing two of the suspects instantly. Singh suffered a gunshot on his right foot and was rushed to a hospital. The other two suspects fled towards the mountainous area.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Chinese vessels stranded

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police said they have spotted two foreign vessels with 30 crew members stranded off the coast of Looc, Mindoro Oriental on Thursday last week. Regional police director Alejandro Lapinid said some fishermen reported seeing two unknown ships staying near the fishing grounds. Investigation disclosed the vessels KM Bhaskara and KM Maestro, both owned by Lizhun Tin Co., left the port of Dalian, China and was bound for Thailand, days before the incident. Ship Captains Fanf Fei and Liao Zhon denied being poachers. They claimed that they had an engine trouble and were washed away by the strong waves.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Decomposing bodies found

OLONGAPO CITY—Police last week found the decomposing bodies of an elderly couple at their backyard in Barangay New Cabalan here. Senior Supt. Orlando Maddela Jr., Olongapo police director, identified the fatalities as Luciano Dingley, 77, and Crispina de la Cruz, 87. Police said Bea Oerge, 13, a resident in the area, found the bodies on June 21 after she traced a foul odor from the victim's compound. Village guards and policemen found the bodies near the water tank in the backyard. Dingley's body had stab wounds while De la Cruz's skull was cracked.
Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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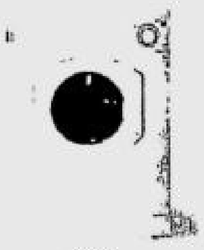

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50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

43 **28 June**

Magkaka-ayos na sina Meg at Lance.
Pero mukhang magkaka-watak-watak naman ang grupo dahil sa mga bagong sekretong mailalantad.

MAKE UP AND BREAK UP

BUTTERCUP

This Saturday at 8:00 PM

44 **28 June**

SURE-FIRE HIT

F4 Rules! Today's hottest boy band in never-before-seen performances, interviews and behind-the-scene clips. Get to know them better with a little help from VJs **Luis Manzano** and **Heart Evangelista.**

1ST TIME! F4 EXCLUSIVE!

F4 FEVER

Saturday after "Buttercup"

45 **29 June**

It's a first for **CHARLENE** as she explores the grandeur of old Manila.
Follow her as she takes you shopping, boating capped with an exciting night-out in Intramuros.

REDISCOVER MANILA!

FEEL AT HOME with CHARLENE

Sunday - 10:30 AM

46 **29 June**

Three birthday parties in one for **JOHN LLOYD CRUZ, PAULA PERALEJO** and **CIARA SOTTO.**

TRIPLE BIRTHDAY TREAT

A.S.A.P. MANIA

Sunday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"

47 **29 June**

Makikilala na ang mga bagong miyembro ng barkada.

NEW SEASON! NEW STARS!

TABING ILOG

Sunday after "A.S.A.P. Mania"

29 June 48

Uulanin ng mga artista at mas maraming pasabog sa culmination ng aming month-long anniversary celebration!

NOW ON ITS 5th YEAR!

THE BUZZ

Sunday after "Tabing Ilog"

29 June 49

Kakaibang suwerte ang hatid ng isang enchanted pig sa kumbento nina **MARICEL LAXA** at **ANGELU DE LEON.**

PIG NA NAGMIMILAGRO!

WANSAPANATAYM

Sunday after "Sharon"

29 June 50

SURE-FIRE HIT

Ang di-malilimutang love story ng ating panahon.
Starring **CLAUDINE BARRETTO** and **RICO YAN.**

SUPER MOVIE SPECIAL

GOT 2 BELIEVE

Sunday after "Home Along da Riles"

**Buo na ang singkwenta.
Pero may mga bonus events pa...
so keep watching!**

30 June

Simula na ng ALL-BIG STAR celebrity edition!
ROBIN PADILLA and **JUDY ANN SANTOS**

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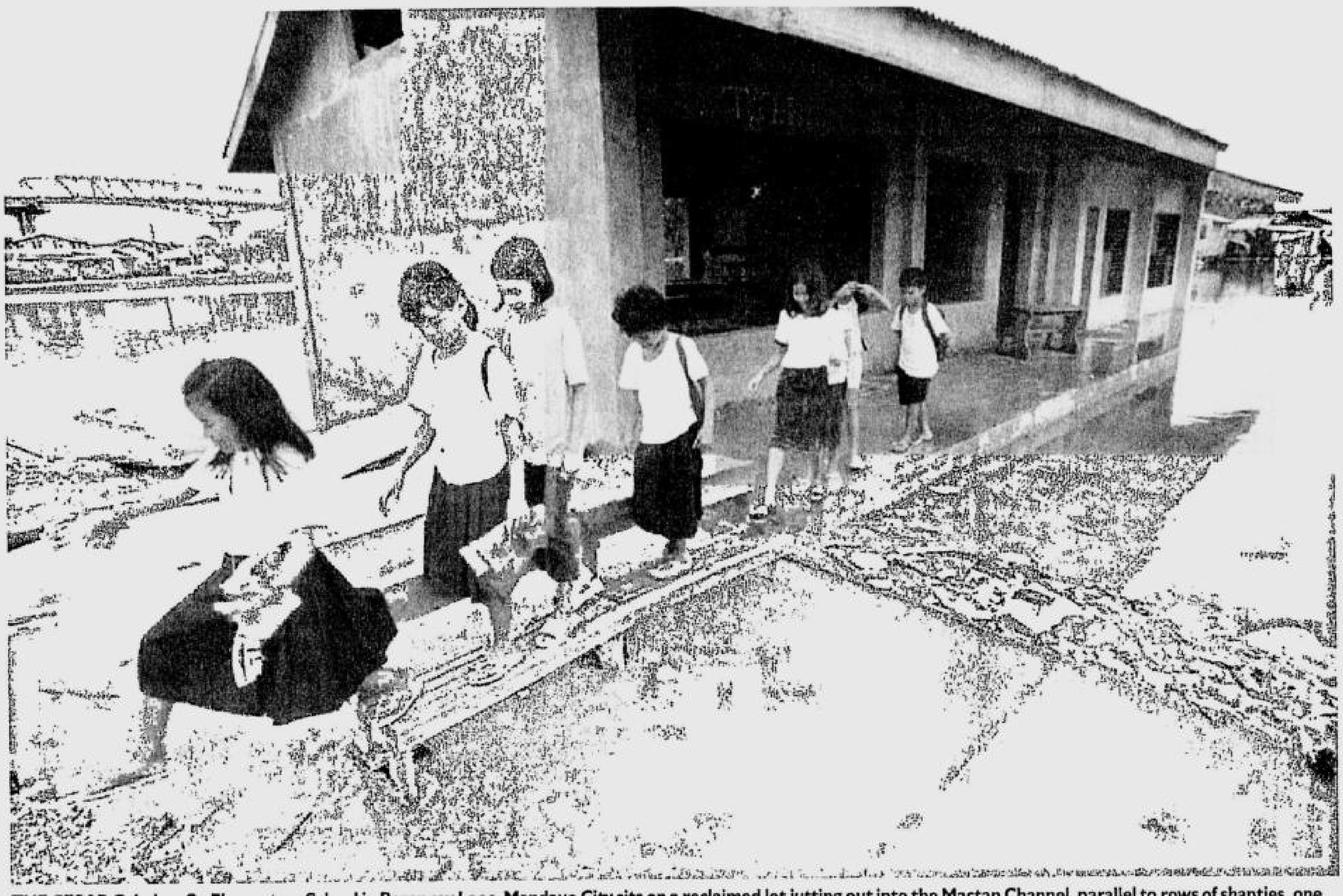
Cebu school sinks in water, waste

By Lino K. Parone Jr.
and Bernadette A. Parco
Mandaue City



THE CESAR Cabahug Sr. Elementary School in Barangay Looc, Mandaue City sits on a reclaimed lot jutting out into the Mactan Channel, parallel to rows of shanties, one of the largest concentrations of squatters in Metro Cebu.

JUNJIE MENDOZA

STANDING inside and looking out the window gives one the feeling of being inside a boat, sailing slowly past the old Mactan-Mandaue Bridge.

But this is not a ship. It is the Cesar Cabahug Sr. Elementary School (CCES) in Barangay Looc in Mandaue City, considered the country's most industrialized city.

The school sits on a reclaimed lot jutting out into the Mactan Channel, parallel to rows of shanties, one of the largest concentrations of squatters in modern Metro Cebu.

This particular school has been commonly known as the "floating school." But for reasons school officials would rather have changed, the school not only floats; it sinks.

According to its principal Vivian Ceniza, the reclamation of the land in the early 1990s was not properly done as shown by the depth (about one foot) that it has sunk against the abutting Looc road. This has caused the regular flooding at the school, she said.

Classes are canceled every time tidal waters flow in, or heavy rains inundate the compound.

Ceniza is worried. In June last year, she said, a Grade 1 pupil drowned as classes were called off because of a 2.5-meter high tide. The boy reportedly swam from the building toward the open sea. No perimeter fence surrounds the school, and the seawater is its natural boundary.

"I was not yet the principal here but my teachers were telling me they saw the body of the boy floating outside the classroom window," Ceniza said.

More woes

But flooding is just one of the perennial woes this school, located at the foot of an old bridge, faces each school year.

Lack of desks, classrooms and toilets also plagues it. It has no protective fence, and thieves often break in.

When she took over as principal on Nov. 1, 2002, Ceniza said she had to immediately order the construction of three makeshift classrooms just to accommodate some classes that had been utilizing open spaces.

Learning of the condition of the school, Carolino Mordeno, education regional director, called up Mandaue City Schools Division Superintendent Metodio Gapasin and sternly asked him for a report.

Mordeno said he was surprised to know that a school in such a sorry state existed in Cebu.

"The Mandaue School Board fund has one of the biggest funds in the region. They can afford to appropriate funds for the construction of the toilets. They also have the operating expenses that they can use," he said.

"We should consider the health of the students and the danger imposed by the flooding of the school," he added.

Mordeno quoted Gapasin as denying any prior knowledge of the situation of the school.

THE SCHOOL, known as the "floating school," accommodates 1,124 pupils handled by 26 teachers.

JUNJIE MENDOZA

After talking to Mordeno, Gapasin turned his ire on Ceniza. "This is not the way I pictured the school. This is not the kind of school that we have in Mandaue City. The school is flooded because of its location," he said in a phone interview.

Gapasin said he would order the purchase of barbed wires to be put up as temporary fence around the school as part of security measures to protect the students.

But, he stressed that "it is the principal who should guard the school," and this could be done with the cooperation of local barangay officials.

Looc barangay chair Editha Cabahug immediately sent two *tanod* (guards) to the school to help secure it from thieves.

Human waste

With a population of 1,124 pupils and 26 teachers, the school has only one functioning toilet. Surrounded by squatter colonies, most of which utilize the sea as one huge toilet bowl, domestic and human wastes have for years been lapping against the walls of the school. At low tide, these are left behind, emitting foul smoke and drawing swarms of disease-carrying flies.

The City Engineer's Office has reportedly suggested that the school dig temporary latrines. Ceniza refused, saying that even a shallow pit anywhere within the school compound will produce seawater.

When told of the need for toilets, Gapasin threw the burden back at Ceniza.

"She is there as owner of the house. She has to go to the City Engineer's Office and she must be one of the signatories of the proposal for the construction of new toilets," Gapasin said. "She should be more challenged (with the situation) and she should do something. I will call her to talk more on how to improve the school."

The lack of classrooms is slowly being remedied, though.

Four are currently being built by the Department of Public Works and Highways, and three more are to be constructed this year, courtesy of oil giant Petron, whose tanks are located in the same barangay just across the old bridge.

But without a perimeter fence, residents of squatter colonies around it are reportedly making the school a source of firewood: The wooden desks are carted away for fuel, and their metal bracings are sold as scrap.

"Our classrooms have been ransacked many times," a teacher said. Also lost in previous heists were a VHS player and other personal belongings of teachers.

Electric bulbs, even the windows' metal grills, are not spared. Plants are also being taken away.

This week, the Looc-based FMC Marine Colloids Philippines Inc., a seaweed-processing firm, wrote to Mandaue Mayor Thaddeo Ouano, offering to construct for free the school's fence that would cost P420,000. But until the fence is built, there is no way to protect the school.

"We don't have a security guard because we can't afford to pay anybody," Ceniza said. Collecting from parents, she said, was out of the question, owing to the economic situation of the community.

"Kids come to school in the same tattered shirts days before, and some with no breakfast. They don't have pencils and notebooks to write with [sic]. Parents often come and ask that their children [be allowed to] take the day off so they can help in collecting garbage," she explained.

The school building itself needs immediate repairs.

Toll

Regular flooding has taken toll on its foundations and floors, and damaged most of their equipment.

The school was initially included in the 1,218 public elementary and secondary schools in the Visayas scheduled for "Brigada Eskwela," a program of the DepEd meant to tap communities to address their physical needs. The project, set on May 19 to 23, had benefited 6,305 schools in 15 regions all over the country. It did not take off at the CCES, Ceniza said, as the community itself was in dire straits.

During his recent trip to Cebu, Education Secretary Edilberto De Jesus said the weeklong program formed part of the National Schools Maintenance Week "aiming to encourage local communities and parents to volunteer time to do minor repairs on schools to get them ready for the start of school year 2003-04."

De Jesus had described the problem of lack of desks in Central Visayas as "alarming." The ratio is one chair for every six students in the elementary level and 1:9 in the secondary level.

But there is no incoming help from the DepEd. De Jesus had suggested that school heads and teachers try to solve the problem at the school level.

To mitigate the lack of nutrition of schoolchildren, Linda Ouano, wife of the city mayor, reportedly included the school in its milk-feeding program.

"There is a bit of improvement showed in the children's average weight for the year since the program was implemented," Ceniza revealed.

These problems, however, do not discourage her, the principal from Tingub said. "I like it here because I am challenged by these problems."

For the love of Anti-Awir

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon

FOR THE LOVE of the Anti-Abuse of Women in Intimate Relations (Awir) Bill, women's rights advocates were sued for libel. But for want of probable cause, their accuser former Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas of Ilocos Norte lost the case in the prosecutor's office.

Abuse of women in intimate relations, as defined in the House bill authored by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, is a crime "committed by any person against a woman who is his wife or former wife, his/her live-in partner or former live-in partner, or against a woman with whom the person has or had a sexual or dating relationship."

The punishable acts include causing, attempting or threatening to cause physical harm; placing the woman in fear of imminent physical harm; attempting to restrict or restricting the woman's freedom of movement; and/or conduct by force or threat of force, physical or other harm or threat of physical harm.

A year after Sibol held a press conference in December 2001 to push for the passage of the Anti-Awir Bill, Fariñas sued the group, lawyer Evalyn Ursua of the Women's Legal Bureau, and Elizabeth Angsioco of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP).

Sibol is composed of the Women's Crisis Center, WLB Inc., Sarilaya, Woman-Health, Makalaya, Center for Legislative Development, DSWP, Wedpro and the Institute for Social Studies and Action. The women's groups, which have members and allies all over the country except in Ilocos, are the same ones that were active in the drafting and passage of the Anti-Rape Law.

Fariñas alleged that the respondents maligned his reputation when they spoke of his deceased wife Maria Teresa Carlson, who leaped to her death from her condominium. Years before her death, Maria had sought the help of women's organizations and appeared in "The Probe Team," telling her story of abuse in the hands of her husband.

Suing women's rights advocates for libel is like throwing turtles in the water. Except that former Congressman Fariñas knew exactly what would make them cringe—he filed the suit in Laoag City, where his brother is the mayor. But if the suit was meant to scare the respondents, it did exactly the opposite. They requested Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to assign another prosecutor outside of Laoag to handle the case. Women lawyers hit the books and were once again acquainted with New York Times vs. Sullivan. Counsel for the respondents are Bing Guanzon, Edith Santos, Ana Tenorio and Imelda Deinla.

Respondent Ursua, valedictorian of the University of the Philippines' Law Class '90, remembers that in one committee hearing, then Congressman Fariñas referred to himself as a lawyer of better credentials. In this case, he acted as his own lawyer.

Last week, State Prosecutor Ma. Laarni Parayno, as acting city prosecutor of Laoag, issued a resolution dismissing the complaint for lack of probable cause. The resolution states that there was no libel because there was no malice; the statements of respondents were meant only as an argument for the passage of the Anti-Awir law; the women's organizations were performing a public duty, the complainants are public figures and cannot claim absolute privacy; and even if the statements of respondents can be considered defamatory, they are privileged communication, being covered by the freedom of the press and expression.

Fariñas will appeal to the Secretary of Justice for sure.

The respondents argued that as people's organizations, they have a public duty to advocate the to passage of the Anti-Awir Law, a role which is protected in the Constitution (Article 13, Sec. 15).

This is the first time that leaders of women's organizations are sued for libel. It will not be the last because standing up against abuse of women in intimate relations is a risky business.

As stated by Angsioco in her counter-affidavit, the very nature of domestic violence is predicated on acts of violence executed by the woman's domestic partner upon the woman. Hence, a report of domestic violence necessarily imputes a wrongful act to the spouse or partner. The "onion-skinned" will always sue for libel.

In the end, we might have Fariñas to thank for this case, especially if it goes all the way to the Supreme Court. He could not have picked a better timing because next month the Anti-Awir Bill will be deliberated upon in the Senate.

* * *

IT'S A boy for Rep. Maite Defensor and Kenneth Asuncion! Congratulations.

Iraq's 'Comical Ali' ...

From page A1

Arab world while Western audiences gasped and then chuckled at his bravado.

Sahaf, who was not on the US "most wanted" list, gained his unflattering nickname for proclaiming the defeat of US forces even as American troops advanced into Baghdad, and for his habit of handling loaded weapons during news conferences.

For the first time since he dropped out of sight after US-led forces captured Baghdad and ended Saddam's 24-year rule on April 9, the ex-information minister appeared on two Arab satellite channels and said that while the information he gave out at the time of the conflict was correct, its "interpretation" by Iraqi officials was not.

Sahaf's surprise reappearance followed a report that he had been captured by US forces occupying Baghdad.

"I went to the Americans ... through some friends, and was questioned about a number of issues related to my (past) work," Sahhaf told Al-Arabiya news channel in snippets aired by the Dubai-based TV ahead of the release of the full interview on Friday.

"After the interrogation, I was released," said Sahaf, who was shown in a living room in what the TV said was "a suburb of Baghdad."

The report of his capture in Wednesday's edition of London's Daily Mirror had not been confirmed by the Pentagon or other US sources.

Sahaf came across as a subdued version of his old self, looking thinner and with his hair turned white.

Sahaf's decision to speak out triggered a media war of sorts among the region's main satellite networks, with Abu Dhabi television broadcasting its own interview with him from Baghdad shortly after Al-Arabiya scooped the rest with his first appearance in two and a half months.

"I know nothing," Sahaf told the Abu Dhabi-based channel when asked whether he knew anything about "the former leadership"—a reference to Saddam whose whereabouts since his ouster have been unknown.

While insisting that he had given out correct information of which he was convinced at the time of the hostilities, Sahaf made a thinly veiled criticism of Iraqi officials in charge of the conduct of the war, describing their reading of developments on the ground as inaccurate.

"The information was correct, but the interpretation was not—(such as saying) that this (advance by US forces) can be handled, this is not the major war front, the situation is under control," he explained.

Sahaf said that during the last few days before Baghdad's fall, he had been in contact with "whoever I could find among military leaderships" in Baghdad, but he refused to comment on a suggestion that "it was the Iraqis, not America, who toppled Saddam" by failing to resist the US-led invasion forces.

AFP, Reuters, AP

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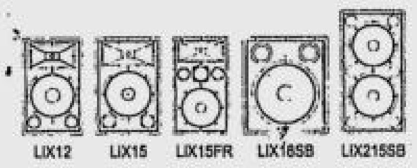

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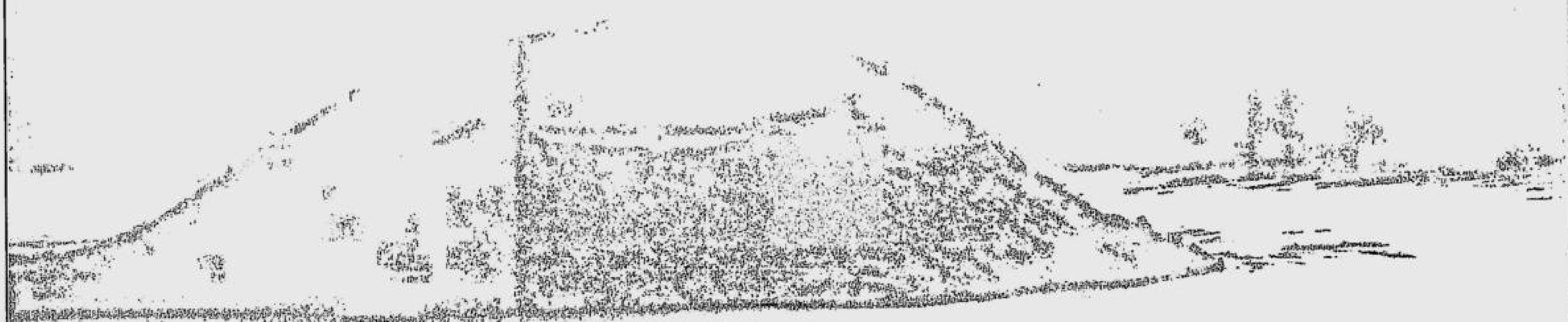

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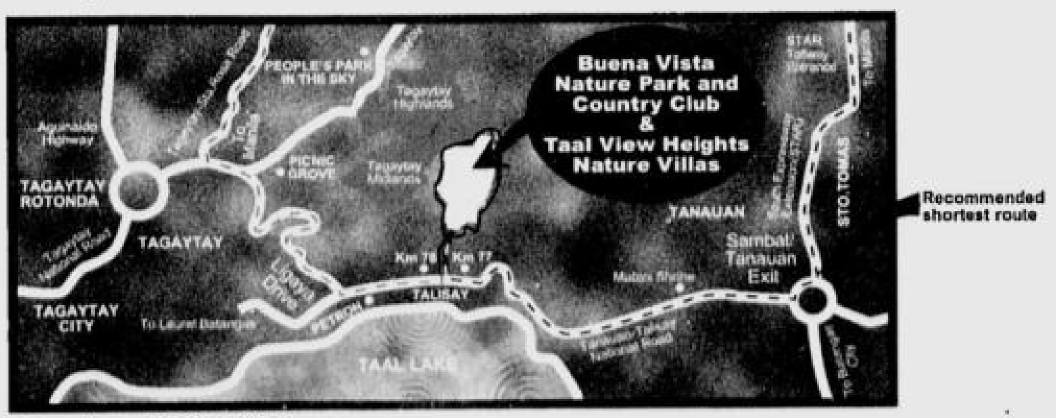

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'Swift, forcible action' vs rebels

From page A1

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal had nothing but praise for what he called the successful attack in Barangay Cagpile, about 60 km from Oras town. He said the raid followed "correct guerrilla tactics," and claimed the rebels carted off the army outpost's entire armory. "The additional arms and ammunition will help arm the growing number of NPA fighters," he said in a short statement sent to the INQUIRER.

Lt. Col. Ruby Bongabong, spokesperson of the AFP Central Command in Cebu City, admitted that the 13 soldiers and 21 militiamen manning the detachment had been "overwhelmed" by the numbers of the rebels.

"Their number was too small compared with the 200 rebels ... It was an overkill; a treacherous, terror attack," she said in a phone interview.

Bongabong said the military was bracing for similar attacks by the NPA, which has been stepping up its offensives against government troops in the past few weeks.

"We're seeing a strategy by the NPA in which they attack small detachments to ensure that they ... score in their operations ... It's part of a terror attack to strike fear in the hearts of people," she said.

The raid left 11 militiamen, five soldiers and a soldier's wife dead, Bongabong said. Two other soldiers were reported wounded in the two-hour firefight, after which the rebels withdrew on boats.

The President said it was unfortunate the NPA exploited "a weak spot" in the government's defense, and ordered the military and the police to pool their intelligence resources to prevent another sneak attack. She said the NPA has been using the "element of surprise" to gain the advantage against the country's soldiers and Cafgus. "It is unfortunate that the NPA has found a weak spot in our defenses and exploited it."

By pooling their resources, the President said the military and police could have better forward intelligence to alert far-flung outposts against NPA attacks.

She said the soldiers and Cafgus who perished in the attack "made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

Ms Macapagal said the fresh NPA attack would be dealt with "swiftly and forcibly" to prevent "isolated insurgent formations from roaming and festering in the countryside."

In a press briefing at Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the government believes the NPA remains a potent force in the country. He said the government was continuing to make peace overtures to the NPA even though its recent efforts were rebuffed by its European principals.

Alpha company

The rebels struck at about 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, engaging the Alpha company of the Army's 52nd Infantry Battalion in a firefight before torching the outpost.

Bongabong said Army troops recovered the three pump boats which the rebels used to escape, in Barangay MacArthur in Arteche town, also in Eastern Samar, on Thursday afternoon.

Traces of blood were found in the boats, an indication that some of the rebels had been wounded, she said.

The rebels, who belonged to the NPA's northeastern front based in Eastern Samar and were reportedly led by Romeo Admanan, fled to Sitio Biga and later to Jipapag town.

The attack came four days after the rebels attacked Quinapondan town and tried to subdue a police detachment, but were repulsed by two policemen.

Maj. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, chief of the AFP Central Command, ordered his troops to intensify pursuit operations against the rebels and beef up the forces based in Eastern Samar.

"We will be infusing more troops; we are planning to bring back the 14th Battalion currently detailed in Jolo. It was detached because of other priorities in other areas," he said.

Ligot also issued instructions to troops on the ground, especially those based in remote detachments, to be "extra vigilant" to avoid a similar incident in the future.

Regional police Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma said Friday that police forces on Samar and in neighboring Leyte province were put on full alert.

Bongabong said the attack was a show of force by the rebels, who are considered a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

The New People's Army, which claims to have about 13,500 fighters, has been battling for a Marxist state for over 30 years. Its attacks and raids usually target military positions and camps as well as business establishments that refuse to pay "revolutionary taxes." The military estimates the NPA, which is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has 10,000 rebels.

Four days ago, Rosal reiterated that the NPA will launch more tactical offensives against military targets across the country. Rosal said the CPP had long issued its order to stage relentless attacks against government forces, which he described as a "continuous operation against the enemy."

Rosal pointed out that "the attacks by the Red fighters against these targets have long been part of the protracted war."

He said he did not consider the foiled attack in Quinapondan a failure but only an incident that would teach valuable lessons. "That's where we get precious lessons in the conduct of guerrilla warfare," he told the INQUIRER in the cellular phone interview after the Quinapondan incident. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan and AP*

Dead soldier's wife . . .

From page A1

She was supposed to stay in Cagpile only for a few days, because all she wanted was for Jesus to see their baby.

But at dawn on Thursday, some 200 communist rebels swooped down on the detachment.

Aside from the Canonigos, four other soldiers and 11 members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were also killed.

The military officials refused to divulge their identities pending formal notification of their families.

The bodies were brought to Oras town, but it was not immediately known where the bodies of the Canonigo couple would be sent. Mary Jane was from Agusan, but her husband was a native of Tabon-tabon town, Leyte.

Two soldiers were seriously wounded in the attack and were brought to a hospital in the capital town of Borongan, which is about three hours from Oras.

Corporals Efren Marguez and Florentino Nadera were supposed to be transferred to the Camp Lukban Hospital in Catbalogan town, Samar, about 200 km west of Oras town.

As of yesterday morning, the two soldiers were still confined at the Borongan Provincial Hospital because there was no ambulance to take them to the Camp Lukban Hospital.

Nadera earlier told the INQUIRER that about 100 rebels, some of them as young as 14 years old, attacked the hilltop detachment, located about 15 to 20 meters above sea level.

Another group of 100 rebels barricaded the lowlands.

Nadera said he believed that the NPA also suffered some casualties during the attack. He said he was able to kill at least four rebels.

Some residents also told the soldiers that they saw the rebels loading about 20 bodies into three pump boats. *With a report from Eden B. Cidro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Malaysian envoy sees peace deal in 90 days

From page A1

something about lifting the warrants of arrest and granting safe passage for people taking part in the talks. It will be meaningless if the main players won't be there," he said.

Taufik also said that because Salamat was the "guiding spirit" of the MILF, it would be "so much better" if he would lead the rebel negotiators.

But if the MILF decided on someone else, "the final document has to be endorsed and signed by [Salamat]," Taufik said.

Malacañang, however, was noncommittal on the envoy's request.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters that the lifting of the arrest warrants would be tackled at "a later stage."

He said the warrants were likely to be one of the key issues to be resolved in the first stages of the road to the peace talks, which include back-channel negotiations and a respite in the hostilities.

In a statement, the President said that the law should not be used as a "bargaining chip" at the negotiating table, and that the government would not desist from upholding the law and fighting terrorism even with the start of the talks.

"The authority of the government to enforce law and order shall be undiminished at all times and in all places," she said, adding:

"We have a separate doctrine for peace, for law enforcement, and for fighting terrorism. We shall not sacrifice our vigilance in these matters for the sake of earning illusory gains in the peace negotiations."

The arrest warrants issued for Salamat and others were for a series of bombings that killed almost 40 people in Mindanao in March and April.

Burden of proof

In Cotabato City, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said his group had "nothing to explain" regarding the military's discovery of a cache of explosives in Maguindanao on Sunday.

"The burden of proof is on the military side," Kabalu said in reaction to the President's statement Thursday demanding an explanation from the MILF.

Ms Macapagal had hinted that the peace talks could only resume if the MILF disclosed the sources of the explosives and where these were to be set off.

The MILF disowned the cache, consisting of 450 kilos of C-4 explosives and black gunpowder, which the military said was recovered in Barangay Payan in Kabuntalan.

Kabalu told the INQUIRER that the C-4 explosives belonged to the military. "We don't own them," he said. "We have no explosives arsenal."

He said the find could be part of "a grand design" of the "hawks" in the Macapagal administration "to pin the MILF down."

Kabalu said the timing of the announcement of the find was "too obvious."

"This report [of the cache] came as the 20-day [unilateral ceasefire] ended on June 22," he said, adding that before then, Salamat had issued a statement "clarifying" the MILF position on terrorism.

Kabalu also said it was highly suspicious that the bombs were "just sprawled on the marshland."

"There was no warehouse, and there were no MILF fighters around," he pointed out.

But he admitted that the MILF had been manufacturing RPG shells, some of which were seized by government troops during recent battles.

MILF information chief Mohagher Iqbal said some of the alleged explosives components were actually fertilizer owned by farmers in the area.

Like Kabalu, Iqbal admitted that the MILF was producing its own munitions. "This only shows that we do not rely on groups, local or international, especially terrorist organizations, to continue with the revolution," he said.

Optimism

Former government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza said he was optimistic that peace would soon reign in Mindanao.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said another stumbling block had been removed with the MILF's willingness to resume the talks and with Salamat's rejection of terrorism.

Pimentel said he was also happy that the government appeared to be pushing for the resumption of the peace talks. He noted that the President had dispatched Eduardo Ermita, her adviser on the peace process, to the United States to brief US officials on the steps being taken to reopen the talks.

"I hope this will [mean] the formal entry of the United States as an honest broker for peace between the government and the MILF," Pimentel said in a statement. *With Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Inquirer wins 4 journalism awards in Hong Kong

From page A1

Jan. 27, 2002 received honorable mention for Best Opinion Piece in category B.

The INQUIRER photograph "Going Off Into the Sunset" received an honorable mention for Best News Photography for category B.

Taken by photographer Edwin Bacasmas, the photo showed President Macapagal-Arroyo holding hands with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo while walking on the beach in Tubbataha, Palawan.

The judges cited the photo for "a moment well-captured."

No other Philippine-based newspapers or magazines won a Sopa award this year.

'Good journalism'

The awards were given during a gala dinner on Thursday evening at the Jockey Club of Hong Kong. INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot received the awards.

Yambot said that when the INQUIRER participated in the awards, he thought about the chances it would have against such giants as Time, Newsweek, The Economist, the International Herald Tribune and the Asian Wall Street Journal. These publications, he pointed out, were all noted for good reporting, good writing, good editing and good design.

"But our (the INQUIRER's) winning these awards shows that good journalism will always stand out, even when it is practiced in a 'second-and-a-half' world (read poor) country like the Philippines," Yambot said.

Two categories

Established in 1999, the Sopa Awards celebrates editorial excellence in both traditional and new media based in Asia and recognizes the steady rise in industry standards seen in recent years in the region.

This year, winners were divided into two categories. Those in category A were regional newspapers or large titles. Those in category B were local newspapers or small titles. It was in the latter category the INQUIRER was classified.

EDWIN Bacasmas' winning photo of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband taking a walk at sunset at the Tubbataha Reef ranger station in Palawan.

Newsweek, the Asian Wall Street Journal, International Herald Tribune, Far Eastern Economic Review and Time Asia were among the winners in category A. Marie Claire (Hong Kong edition), Ming Pao and WestEast Magazine received several awards in category B.

The winners in 28 categories were chosen from a record-high of 261 entries from leading publications across the region. The judges were 68 respected journalists from top national and regional media based in Asia.

Sopa said this year's awards covered a broad range of categories reflecting Asia's vibrant and successful editorial scene.

"This year's high number of entries and articles coming in from a wider range of publications clearly demonstrates the growing strength and quality of media in Asia," Sopa said.

"The great response was especially significant in light of a difficult 2002 for the industry with editorial resources affected by the pressures of a downturn economy. Sopa continues to support and value talent around the region by acknowledging their efforts and achievements in the year," said Cyril Pereira, Sopa chair.

Category A winners

Under category A, Newsweek won the Excellence in Magazines award with Time Asia getting an honorable mention. The Asian Wall Street Journal won Excellence in Newspapers with the International Herald Tribune as honorable mention.

Newsweek won Excellence in Reporting for "War Crimes of Afghanistan" while the AWSJ won honorable mention for "Terrorists and Terrorists in Asia."

The Economist won Excellence in Feature Writing, Newsweek for Excellence in Business Reporting, and Far Eastern Economic Review for Excellence in Specialized Reporting for "Human Rights" which was cited as "one of the finest scoops of Asian journalism in 2002" for uncovering the North Korean gulag.

Best Opinion Piece in category A went to the AWSJ for "A Dark Day for Hong Kong."

Time Asia won Best Magazine Cover as well as Best Special Issue for "After Bali," which, according to Sopa, "offered a deep and critical look at why we need to pay attention to this part of the world."

68 judges

Among the 68 distinguished judges were New York Times associate editor R.W. Apple Jr. and its Hong Kong bureau chief Keith Bradsher, International Herald Tribune columnist Philip Bowring, Reuters news editor for Asia Andrew Browne, Time executive editor Adi Ignatius and senior editor Jim Erickson, and AWSJ former editor and publisher Urban Lehner.

Ming Pao Newspapers Ltd. executive chief editor Leung Heung Nam; Financial Times Asia asset management editor Angela Mackay; Hong Kong Journalists Association chair Mak Yin Ting; Newsbreak magazine editor Marites Vitug and INQUIRER news editor Artemio Engracia Jr.

Also part of the board of judges were George Harmon of the Medill School of Journalism of Northwestern University, Dean Orville Schell of the Graduate School of Journalism of the University of California at Berkeley, director Charles Eisendrath of the Knight-Wallace Fellows at Michigan and director Stephen Solomon of the New York University Department of Journalism.

Sopa was founded in 1982 to enhance the professional standing of publishers in Asia and aims to protect their interests. It works to establish standards and guidelines for publishers relating to issues such as quality control, professional development, circulation, advertising and media.

For this year's awards, Sopa was supported by Ifra Asia, International Federation of Periodical Press, the World Editors Forum, the editorial division of the World Association of Newspapers and Asia Media Journal.

JVO awards

A few hours earlier on Thursday, the "Abadilla 5" series was awarded second prize in the Philippine-based Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism for investigative reports. The INQUIRER received a plaque and P40,000.

First prize in that category went to Luz Rimban and Sheila Samonte-Pesayco of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism for their report "Trail of power mess leads to Ramos." They received P70,000, a plaque and the McLuhan Prize, a study grant to Canada courtesy of the Canadian Embassy.

Third prize went to Leotes Marie Lugo and Leilani Gallardo of BusinessWorld for "PEACe bonds put into question credibility of RP financial system." They received P20,000 and a plaque.

First prize in the explanatory reports category went to Karen Tiongson of Today for "The complex business of picking justices: who gets to sit on the bench?" She received P70,000, a plaque and the Australian Ambassador's Award, a travel grant to Australia.

Eileen Mencias of Manila Standard won second prize for "Raise my SSS contribution but please protect my money." She received P40,000 and a plaque.

Malou Mangahas of the PCIJ won third prize for her report "The Estrada plunder case, year 1: 'Trial of the Century' may take ages to finish."

4 awards

THE INQUIRER received the following Editorial Excellence Awards from the Society of Publishers in Asia (Sopa).

Excellence in Specialized Reporting

"The Abadilla 5" by Stella Ruth O. Gonzales, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Nancy Calauor-Carvajal (Jose Ma. D. Nolasco, project editor), Dec. 10-14, 2002.

Best Opinion Piece

Winner: "Remembering" by Conrado de Quiros, Sept. 10, 2002.

Honorable Mention: "Seeing the world with American eyes" by Randy David, Jan. 27, 2002.

Best News Photography

Honorable mention: INQUIRER (Going off into the sunset).

PMA plebe found dead in Kennon Road ravine

From page A1

TOOTS SOBERANO/ PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

POLICE probers examine the body of Jamel Ariel Valencia (inset), a PMA cadet who had been missing since June 16, 2003.

cia had reportedly hiked out of Fort del Pilar at the height of tropical storm Egay two weeks ago.

Members of PMA Class 2007 had just been incorporated in April, and had finished the PMA's mandatory field training exercises (FTX) at the Subic Bay Freeport from May 26 to June 8 when Valencia disappeared.

A seven-man search team from the PMA stumbled on his body at about 8:30 p.m. near the abandoned Black Mountain mine site.

The badly decomposed body was half buried in mud on a Kennon Road slope 500 meters from the Camp 6 tollbooth, said Capt. Eugenio Osias, a member of the search team.

The cadet's parents, retired Air Force 2nd Lt. James Valencia and his wife Gloriosa, picked up Valencia's body on Friday for burial next week in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

Why Valencia went absent-without-leave is still a mystery.

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, immediately summoned Valencia's bunk and squad mates in Delta Company. Adan learned that Valencia had said at least three times since April that he wanted to go home.

Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA information officer, said "homesick" cadets were common, and standard operating procedures at the academy required squad leaders to discuss the misgivings of any cadet.

Valencia was one of the youngest cadets enrolled at the PMA. "This could explain why he might have been homesick, although that is precisely why we train our cadets to be more self-sufficient," Arevalo said.

The cadet's mother, however, said her son only complained of homesickness on Incorporation Day on April 1.

"He never had time to call us except for the first two weeks of April when he was treated at the PMA hospital for sore eyes. When he did call, it was to his brother and sister in Manila. We didn't worry too much, because we knew it was his decision to join the PMA. I tried to discourage him, but he wanted this," the mother said.

High spirits

Valencia's roommates said he was in high spirits during the FTX in Subic. "He was enjoying his other trips. He was already ready to pursue further training," Arevalo said, quoting Valencia's roommates.

Adan asked Valencia's roommates if the cadet had encountered physical problems, which could have pushed him to flee the PMA.

"(The general asked) them, 'Was he hard up?' and they responded, 'We all were'... The fourth-class cadets had just started to settle in and were just starting their academic courses so the pressures of military training (had not yet set in)," Arevalo said.

Delta Company reported Valencia missing when he failed to attend the "breakfast mess" on June 16. Arevalo said the company's tactical officer immediately ordered a search.

"Usually this happens when a cadet tries to get some extra sleep somewhere else and forgets his schedules, so they conducted a search of the perimeter," he said.

"When they could not locate Valencia, they ordered a wider search. We contacted his parents to advise them about their son's absence, and continued the search, which followed every trail (Valencia might have taken). The cadets told (Adan) that Valencia had assured them he had a route mapped out should he attempt to go AWOL."

Arevalo said this was the first recorded death of a cadet who had gone AWOL.

Camouflage uniform

In a second interview, Arevalo described the terrible condition of Valencia's body when it was found.

"The body was already in a state of decomposition. What remained of his face was just the skull; his skin had peeled off," Arevalo said in a second interview.

Valencia, of Dingras, Ilocos Norte, was clad in a camouflage uniform, the same clothes he was wearing when last seen at about 5:30 a.m. on June 16. "He had gone to the mess hall to get the menu list. When the mess formation came, he could no longer be accounted for," Arevalo said, quoting Valencia's classmates.

Citing autopsy results, Arevalo said the cadet died from a fracture in the skull, theorizing that he "could have fallen from a high cliff into the ravine."

"If you remember, he went AWOL at the height of a typhoon," he said.

"We don't see any foul play there," Arevalo said, adding: "His classmates said that he had been feeling homesick before he went AWOL. His parents related the same thing during our phone conversation."

Valencia was the youngest of three children. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

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'My dad told me: You must take me home'

From page A1

she said.

Pia said that at the University of Michigan in the United States where her parents met and married, her father repeatedly told her mother Sandra, "I am going back to my country. We are going to live and raise our children in the Philippines."

The couple came home in 1968, with Pia then only 2 years old. She is now mother to two children, Maxine and Nadine.

"I couldn't have known the joy my dad felt, returning to his beloved country after studying for six years in the [United States]," she said. "But 35 years later, barely a month ago, I had the pleasure of seeing my dad's eyes shine and his face light up" when he decided that it was time to return.

Mission accomplished

Minutes before Cayetano died at the family home in Ayala Alabang on June 24, Pia said her brother, Muntinlupa Councilor Rene Carl, whispered to him: "Dad, you have done your mission. You have served God and our country."

"And my mom said to him, 'Honey, it is now time to rest,'" Pia said.

Before she ended, she urged the senators to "continue his mission."

"Remember his message of keeping God in our lives in order to [make] our country better," she said.

Pia's brothers each delivered their own eulogies.

They relayed the messages that the late senator wanted to impart to the Filipino people: "Put God first in your lives. Families help each other, love each other. Give God time each day, and communicate with Him."

Allan said: "You always heard him saying, 'Always know the law, and don't allow people to mistreat you.'"

But when disease began to take its toll, Allan said, his father had a more "powerful" advice: "Do not turn a blind eye on God."

The son also said his father urged him and his siblings to "show them that we are a family."

For a while, he said, he thought the senator was referring to their own family.

"But he was talking to all Filipinos," Allan said. "We have to show the world that we are a family, with God as our Father and all Filipinos [as] brothers and sisters."

Allan said that when the senator discovered that the cancer was incurable, Pia reminded him to expect a miracle.

In response, Cayetano said he did not expect God to give him a miracle: "He does not owe me anything."

And then he said he had received a gift: God "revealed Himself to me."

"If I have to go home and die, so be it," the senator told his children.

Full honors

The hearse arrived at the Senate main gate shortly before 2 p.m.

Policemen serving as pallbearers carried the golden casket draped with a Philippine flag to the center of the Senate grounds, where the 107-member honor guard was standing at attention. The flag at the Senate was at half-staff.

Cayetano's four children—Pia in black and her brothers in white *barong*—and relatives followed the casket.

After the honor guard led by Senior Supt. Florante Baguio saluted the casket, Senators Loren Legarda, Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, Vicente Sotto III, Rodolfo Biazon, Noli de Castro and Luisa Ejercito met it at the entrance to the Senate building.

Sandra Cayetano took her place at the second-floor session hall after the casket had been brought there.

Among those present were former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Homobono Adaza, Cayetano's colleague in the Batasang Pambansa; Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, his classmate at the University of the Philippines' College of Law, and former Senators Santanina Rasul, Vicente Paterno and Heherson Alvarez.

Former Senators Raul Roco and Leticia Shahani, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas and former Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas arrived later.

At 2:04 p.m., Legarda went up the rostrum and banged the gavel to signal the start of the necrological rites.

It was Adaza who spoke first, followed by Datumanong, De Castro, Sotto, Legarda and Bro. Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship.

Villanueva recalled that he spoke with Cayetano a few days before the latter's liver transplant, with the intention of "encouraging him and injecting faith" in the Lord.

"Amazingly," Villanueva said, it was the senator who did the encouragement.

'Warrior'

Datumanong and Adaza remembered Cayetano for his achievements in his life, saying he was an "indefatigable warrior," a "good friend" and a "good father to his children."

De Castro recalled that Cayetano called him a few days after the latter had returned from the United States.

His voice filled with sadness, "he told me that he wished he had given more attention to two important things: God and his family," De Castro said.

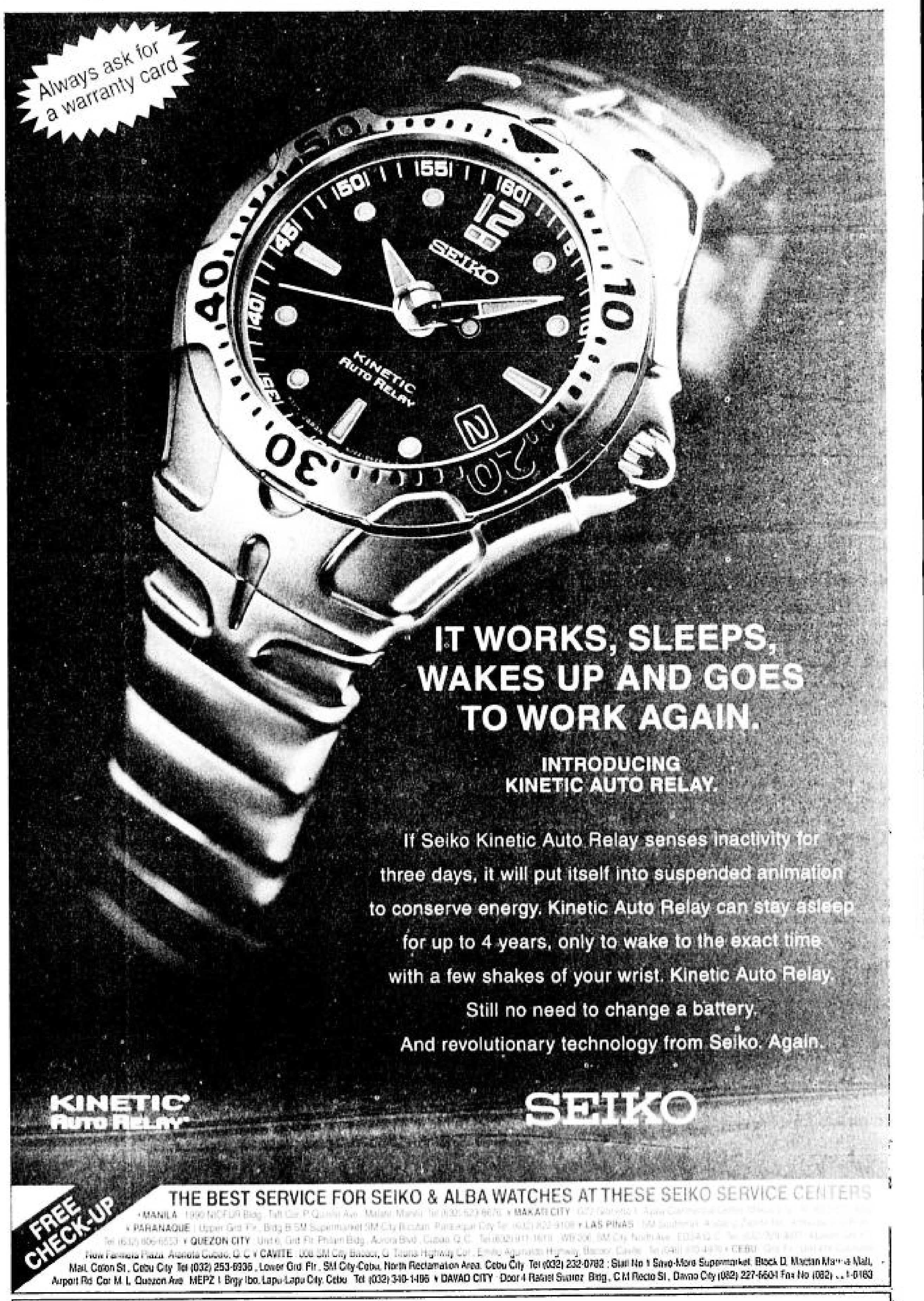
"You served your country well," Legarda said in her eulogy. "And best of all, you have served our God by offering your life and service for His greater glory."

Legarda also praised Cayetano's children, saying she now understood where "they got their faith, courage, loyalty and dedication to God, country and family."

"You make your father proud," Legarda said.

The casket was taken out of the Senate at about 4:30 p.m. and brought to Cayetano's hometown of Pateros.

The remains will lie in state there until the interment at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park at 5 p.m. on Sunday.



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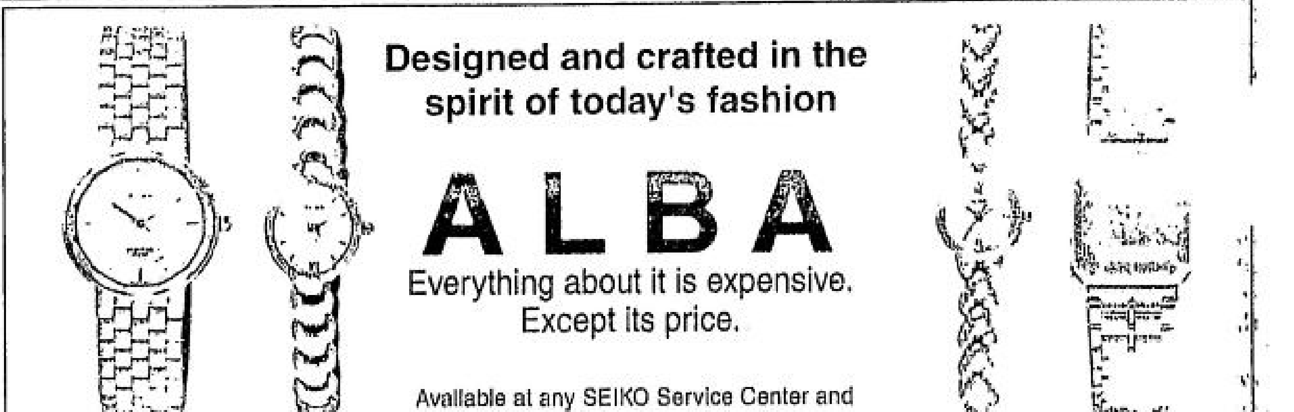

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MARIKINA CITY EXPERIENCE

Quarantine effective but expensive

By Luige del Puerto and Leila Salaverria

PUTTING a drug "hot spot" under quarantine may prove effective but at a steep price, Marikina City officials said yesterday.

When Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando was still mayor of Marikina City, he put the Tumana district and eight other areas under quarantine.

Today, local officials claim that quarantine had broken the drug network in the area and emboldened people to report suspects.

His wife, incumbent Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando, continued the program when she took over but had to shelve it.

The reason? The city had to spend around P100,000 a month for each area and Marikina did not have the money for it, according to Marikina vice mayor Marion Andres.

"We had problems in funding," Andres told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Under its quarantine program, the city deployed "watchers" in the areas and everyone who came and went were logged. Visitors were asked who they were seeing and why.

In Tumana, which has a land area of 44 hectares and a population of 40,000, the city hired 30 people working in three shifts, to watch and record the goings of the place.

"Aside from their salary, the watchers needed batteries for flashlights, coffee during breaks, and cell cards," Andres said.

With the quarantine program gone, Andres said, the city now relies heavily on the police to curb the drug menace in the city.

Nevertheless, Mayor Fernando said quarantine gave them a big lead in their anti-drug campaign.

"We have the names now. We know who they are. All the police have to do is catch, charge and lock them up," she said.

Fernando said they were catching some five pushers a day. "Quarantine was expensive, but it was worth it," she said.

Because of the gains in Marikina, Fernando is proposing quarantine to Metro Manila mayors in their anti-drug campaign.

But the militant group Pamalakaya is not as convinced.

"Fernando's proposal is as demonic as (Alfredo) Lim's spray campaign," said Gerry Corpuz of Pamalakaya.

He warned that quarantine could create "mini police states where movement would be restricted and entire populations put under surveillance."

The group then urged the Department of Justice to stop the MMDA chief from pushing the idea.

"We want the drug problem addressed, but not at the expense of human rights and civil liberties."

NATIONAL Bilibid Prisons personnel go through the items seized from inmates at the maximum security compound. Prison officials have conducted a raid on the cells of inmates after a report came out that a drug laboratory was operating behind bars. Above, prison personnel demolish the stylized cells of Chinese inmates in the Muntinlupa penal facility. RANDY HORMILLOSA

BOC chief admits shabu trade at Bilibid

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Philip Tubeza

THERE are no laboratories for illegal drugs at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. The shabu trade at the penitentiary is, however, very much alive.

No less than Bureau of Corrections director Gen. Dionisio Santiago made this admission while denying reports that shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) was being manufactured inside the national penitentiary.

Santiago said there was rampant drug peddling among inmates and that it was only "the tip of the iceberg."

"Name a problem and we surely have it," Santiago told the INQUIRER yesterday. Santiago enumerated prostitution, drugs and corruption as the main problems at the NBP.

On the existence of an alleged shabu laboratory at the Bilibid Santiago said, "That is an old issue. I know that a suspected shabu lab was exposed in 2001 but it has long stopped operating."

NBP director Supt. Francisco Abunales also denied the reports claiming it was part of a demolition job to discredit him and Santiago, who has reportedly implemented strict rules at the prison.

"I have never seen a shabu lab here since I took over in December," Abunales told the INQUIRER.

Nonetheless, Santiago ordered the dismantling of the "kubols" or small painted rooms of 47 Chinese inmates who had allegedly set up the laboratory.

The Chinese inmates had stayed in these rooms located at the upper floor of Building 13-H2 for five months.

A brigade leader told the INQUIRER that the Chinese had paid up to P15,000 for their kubols in what was popularly known to the inmates as the "Ongpin" area.

The Chinese inmates have been distributed to separate buildings.

Abunales said they would be demolishing the kubols in the other buildings.

Also yesterday, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong asked the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to look into reports of a shabu laboratory operating inside the NBP.

Datumanong said he asked PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido to coordinate with Santiago in investigating the alleged illegal drug activities inside the penitentiary.

The Justice secretary has given Santiago a free hand in cleaning up the prison.

"Anyone who is found to be involved in illegal drugs shall be made to answer the full force of the law," Datumanong said in a statement.

He said no one should be spared in the investigation and "in the filing o criminal and administrative charges."

Meanwhile, Datumanong announced the creation on Wednesday of a task force on against illegal drugs and narcotics.

Heading the task force was Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, who will be assisted by Theodore Villanueva, Archimedes Manabat and Leah Armento.

The task force is composed of 17 other state prosecutors, Datumanong added.

49 drug suspects arrested in Manila

By Margaux Ortiz

DEAD serious about the city's anti-drug campaign, the Manila police yesterday presented to reporters 49 suspected drug users and pushers arrested during a two-day operation in the city.

Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the suspects were rounded up on June 25 and 26 in Tondo, Sampaloc, Sta. Cruz, Hermosa, Sta. Ana and Pandacan.

Last Wednesday, the WPD had presented 104 suspected drug offenders at the Manila City Hall.

But only five grams of shabu, with a street value of P10,000, were seized from the suspects.

"There is a crisis among the drug offenders because of the ongoing anti-drug campaign," said Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo. He said the street value of shabu had doubled in the past few days.

A gram of the illegal substance now costs P2,000.

"This explains why we confiscated only 5 grams of shabu during the operation," Pedrozo said. "This only means that the drug offenders are really affected by the anti-drug campaign."

LATE SPORTS

Coke gains finals; Aces stay alive

COCA-COLA withstood a furious chase from Sta. Lucia Realty and escaped with a thrilling 99-93 win to barge into the finals of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup last night at the Philsports Arena.

John Arigo hit a three-pointer with 7.8 seconds left to lift the Alaska Aces to a pulsating 87-86 win over Talk N' Text and send the two teams' own series to a deciding fifth game on Sunday.

For their win, the Tigers should thank the Realtors, who rallied from 24 points down in the final period only to commit a couple of miscues in the homestretch.

Francis Adriano flubbed a lay-up that could have sent the game into overtime, and together with misses from Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino, led the Realtors to their doom. *June Navarro*

METROBRIEFS

WPD releases recruiter

VICTIMS of an alleged illegal recruiter yesterday decried the release of suspect Mabel Dogillo, 33, of 1091 Apacible St., Paco, Manila, by Western Police District authorities. The complainants said Dogillo's release was not even recorded in the police blotter. The woman who allegedly duped 108 victims between 2001 to 2003 was arrested by virtue of citizens arrest on June 23. However, Inquest Division head Nelson Salva, who signed the release order, said that since the crime was committed on different occasion over two years, "the case is not recent enough for a valid warrantless arrest." Dogillo reportedly promised the complainants jobs in Japan as waitresses, janitors and housekeepers in exchange for P75,000-P100,000. *Margaux Ortiz*

Policeman killed in QC

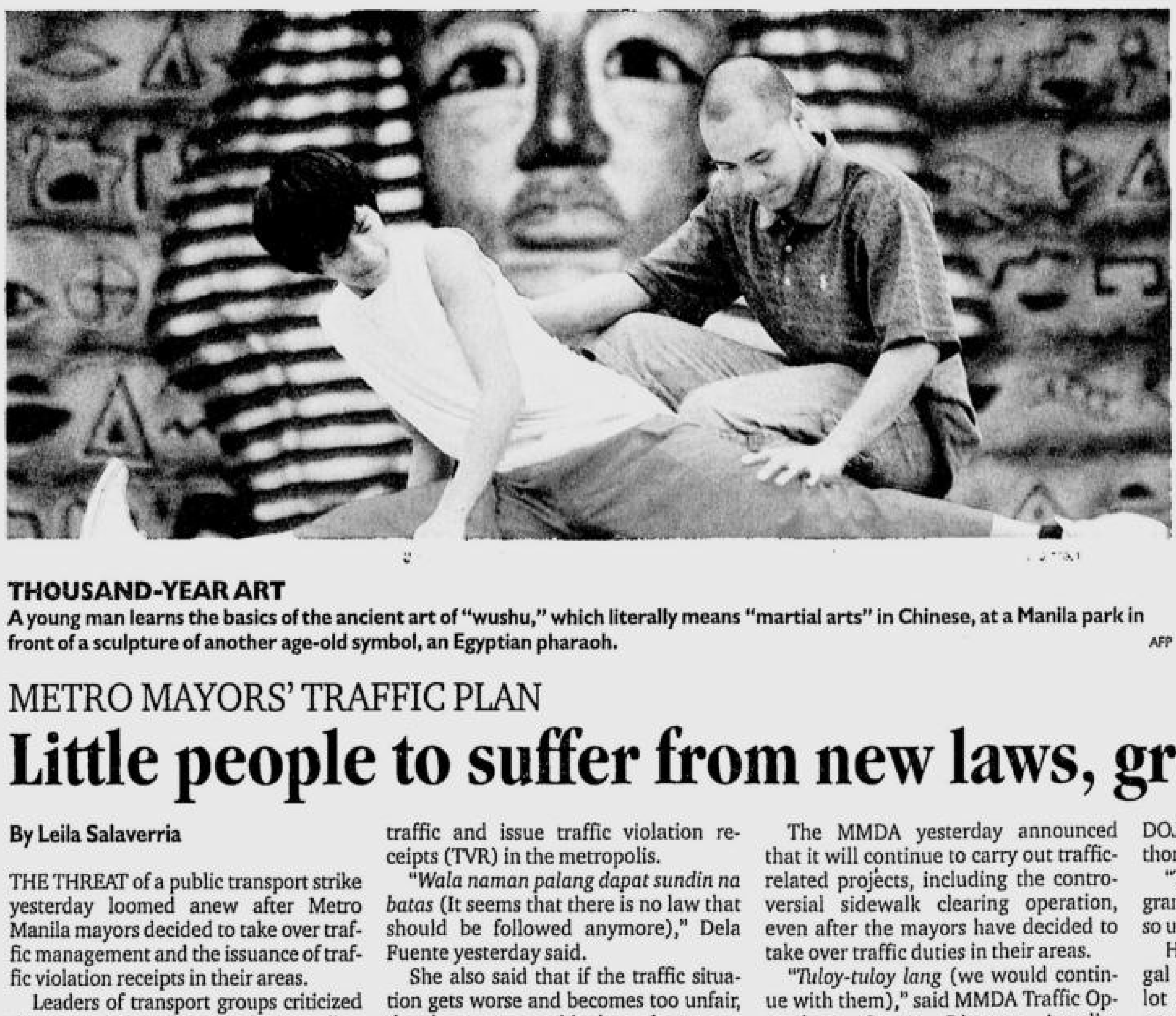
AN OFF-DUTY policeman died before dawn yesterday when he tried to accost three suspicious-looking men in Quezon City. PO2 Wendolfo Lagunsad, detailed with the Central Police District Police Station 6 in Batasan Hills, succumbed to a gunshot wound in the chest. According to the CPD Criminal Investigation Unit, Lagunsad was on his way home with three civilian companions when he tried to question the suspects along Katipunan corner IBP Road, Barangay Commonwealth Avenue at around 2:45 a.m. *Alcuin Papa*

Cop condones rowdy kin

THIS time, blood was thicker than the call of duty. PO1 Godofredo Dawado Aglugub, 24, of the National Capital Region Police Office, was asked to respond to a commotion caused by four allegedly drunken men on Libis Reparo Street, Baesa, Caloocan City. Instead, Aglugub reportedly shot at the barangay officials because one of the rowdy men, Dante Ammowen, 30, was his relative. Other responding lawmen arrested Aglugub and the other suspects. *Tarra Quismundo*

Woman had explosives

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested a businesswoman in Cavite yesterday morning for possessing explosives used in dynamite fishing. The NBI found the explosives inside a stockroom at the house of Rita Quinto, 49, of Libtong, Rosario, Cavite. NBI Cavite District Office chief Danielito Lalucis said seized from Quinto's house was a sack of ammonium nitrate, blasting caps and nitroglycerine. The raid was on the strength of a warrant issued by Judge Dolores Español of the Cavite Regional Trial Court. *Margaux Ortiz*



THOUSAND-YEAR ART
A young man learns the basics of the ancient art of "wushu," which literally means "martial arts" in Chinese, at a Manila park in front of a sculpture of another age-old symbol, an Egyptian pharaoh. AFP

METRO MAYORS' TRAFFIC PLAN

Little people to suffer from new laws, group claims

By Leila Salaverria

THE THREAT of a public transport strike yesterday loomed anew after Metro Manila mayors decided to take over traffic management and the issuance of traffic violation receipts in their areas.

Leaders of transport groups criticized the mayors' plan, claiming that it spells a possible increase of traffic fines and more trouble for public utility vehicle drivers.

"Why is it that when new traffic rules or situations come up, it is always the little people who suffer?" said Claire dela Fuente, Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association president.

Dela Fuente yesterday lashed out at the mayors for disregarding the Department of Justice opinion that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has the sole authority to manage traffic and issue traffic violation receipts (TVR) in the metropolis.

"*Wala naman palang dapat sundin na batas* (It seems that there is no law that should be followed anymore)," Dela Fuente yesterday said.

She also said that if the traffic situation gets worse and becomes too unfair, then her group would take to the streets.

Dela Fuente yesterday added that there should only be one group handling traffic management and issuing TVRs in the metropolis.

"There are already three agencies ... involved in traffic management, and now the mayors would be doing it, too?" she said.

Dela Fuente was referring to the MMDA, the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

The MMDA yesterday announced that it will continue to carry out traffic-related projects, including the controversial sidewalk clearing operation, even after the mayors have decided to take over traffic duties in their areas.

"*Tuloy-tuloy lang* (we would continue with them)," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios. "I don't see any changes (in the MMDA road programs)."

He said the MMDA has a mandate, created by Congress, that could not be easily ignored.

Malacañang yesterday declared that the MMDA still has control over traffic and garbage management in the metropolis, based on the opinion of the Department of Justice.

In a press briefing, the president's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said the DOJ opinion affirmed the MMDA's authority to call the shots in Metro Manila.

"The authority of the MMDA was granted by law and it will continue to be so unless the law is changed," Bunye said.

He noted that under the country's legal system, the DOJ opinion "carries a lot of weight" that should be implemented by Malacañang.

Under the MMDA charter, the agency has the duty to "set the policies concerning traffic in Metro Manila."

Metro Manila mayors, acting as a council, have decided to take over traffic management in their localities and to issue their own TVRs. But they assured the public that they would follow a uniform traffic code and coordinate with each other so that motorists' confusion could be averted.

With a report from Gil Cabacungan

Humiliating defeat in Samar

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE ARMY base in Oras, Eastern Samar could not have been overrun by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas if the soldiers manning it were alert.

The communist rebels knew the soldiers in the camp were lax and went in for the kill.

That humiliating defeat, which resulted in the death of 17 government troops, will demoralize the soldiers in the field and boost the morale of the rebels.

* * *

No amount of excuses on the part of the military high command will mitigate the humiliation the government suffered in Oras town.

"They (the NPA rebels) took advantage of the heavy rain and darkness," said the top police official in Eastern Visayas.

If the soldiers manning the detachment in Oras were not lax, they would have been more awake during the heavy rain because that's when the enemy usually strikes.

* * *

Even in urban areas, thieves break into homes during heavy downpour at night because the occupants are fast asleep.

If thieves take advantage of darkness and heavy rains in urban areas, how much more for the NPAs in remote areas?

* * *

If the laxity in the Army detachment in Oras were duplicated in other areas, the military had better be prepared for more defeats in the hands of the NPA and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The NPAs will be emboldened by their victory in Oras and will undertake more strikes against military and police facilities.

Communist rebels are probably celebrating their victory in Oras.

* * *

Supt. Glenn Dumlao, a vital witness against the principal suspects in the abduction-murder of publicist Bubby Dacer, has flown the coop. He's now in the United States, a reliable source told this writer.

Dumlao was a self-confessed participant in the planning and implementation of the Dacer abduction-murder. He has implicated his former superiors at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) to the crime.

Now that he's gone, the government's case against Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao has become weak.

* * *

Why was Dumlao allowed to go around scot-free when he was supposed to be in jail with the other suspects in the Dacer murder case?

Was the government afraid that if he were placed behind bars, Dumlao would not testify against his co-conspirators?

Or did some top police officials give Dumlao freedom to move around because he was a fellow officer?

* * *

Outspoken priest Msgr. Nico Bautista has been told to shut up under pain of being defrocked.

Bautista has said that he was for priests being allowed to marry.

If there is one big totalitarian institution, it's the Catholic Church.

* * *

If Metro Manila were rated by researchers from the California State University who conducted tests on which cities in the world were helpful, it would have failed miserably. You seldom come across people who would assist old people in crossing the streets.

If you left your bag full of money inside a taxicab in Metro Manila, chances are the bag would never be returned.

Let's face it: Most of us are dishonest. That's why when a security guard who finds a bag full of money returns his find, we Filipinos praise him to high heavens. And many Metro Manilans will laugh at him and call him "tanga."

It's different in the provinces, though, because provincianos are more helpful and honest than their Metro Manila counterparts.

* * *

SPO4 Ruben de Leon of the Rizal provincial police office received from two barangay guards a bag containing P800,000 which was stolen from a home in Glendale Village, Taytay, Rizal.

The barangay watchmen also turned over to the policeman the thief who barged into the home.

But De Leon was not interested in taking custody of the thief. He told the watchmen to take care of the thief. But he got the bag containing the money and went straight to the PNP provincial headquarters in Antipolo.

* * *

The owners of the money, couple Elmer and Priscila Francisco, were told that De Leon only turned over P200,000.

Where's the P600,000?

De Leon said that was the amount that was found in the bag.

De Leon is typical of many policemen who recover stolen money: They steal part of it before returning the money.

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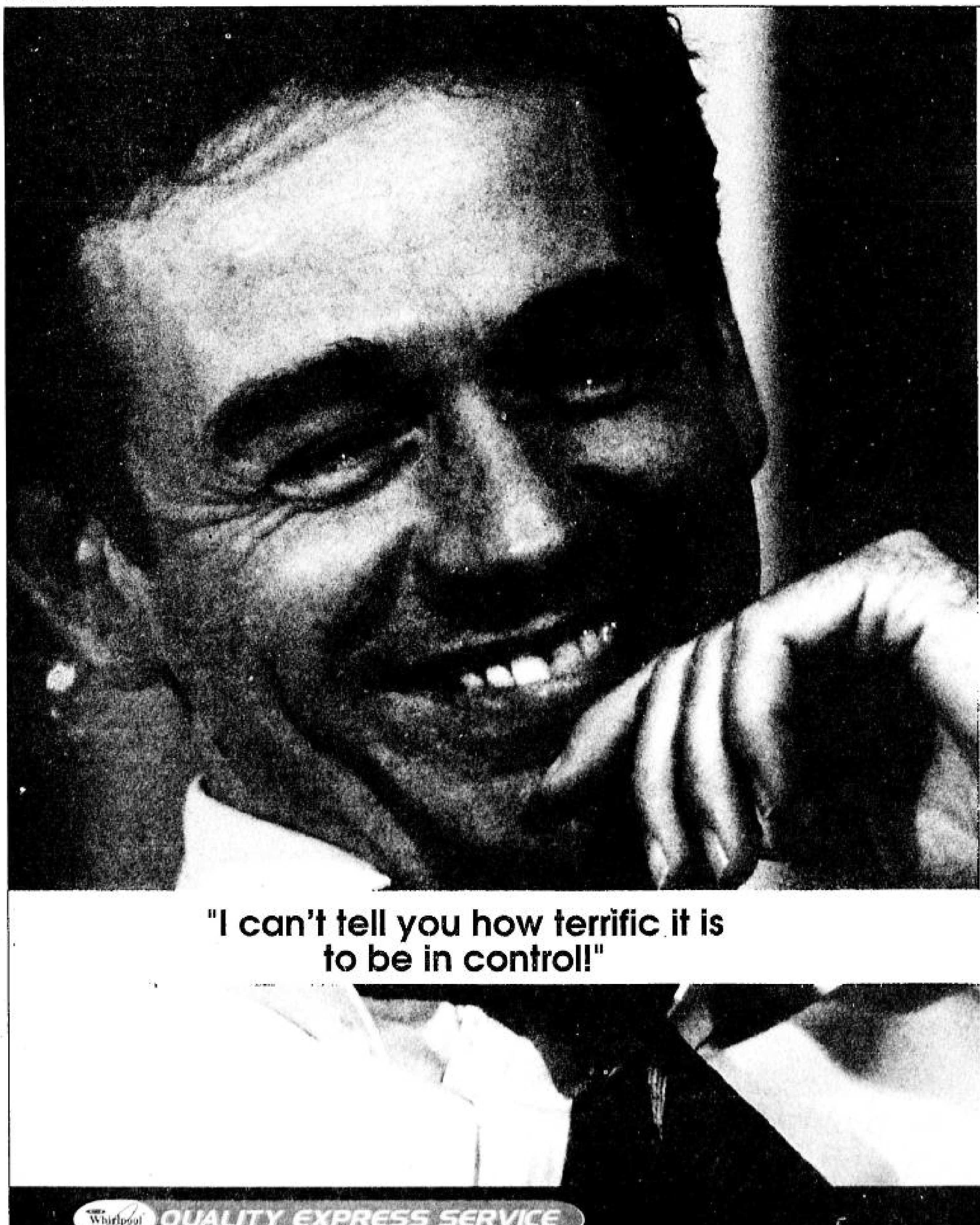

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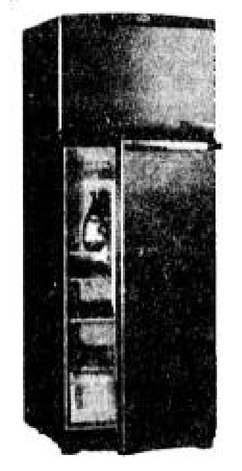

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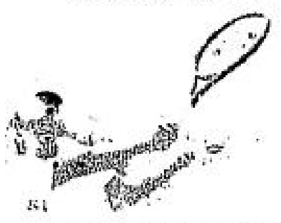

- Agassi, Henin, Serena advance /A28

- A job for James /A29

- Archer's target Eagles /A26

PDI chair Marixi Prieto makes the ceremonial drive during the well-attended Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament at Club Intramuros yesterday. Some of the participants are shown at right.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Dayrit-Buhain quarrel demeaning–Elizalde

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEMEANING and detrimental to Philippine sports.

This was the reaction yesterday of Frank Elizalde, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, to the raging feud between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission over the preparation and participation of the Philippine contingent to the Southeast Asian Games this December in Vietnam.

Elizalde said the word war between POC president Celso Dayrit and PSC chair Eric Buhain over the issue of sponsorship and the composition of the RP contingent is "demeaning and detrimental to Philippine sports in general and the participation of our athletes in Vietnam in particular."

He added that the differences "could have very easily been resolved through a mere phone call." He described the quarrel as "a negative chapter to the already tarnished image of Philippine sports."

While Elizalde backed Dayrit in the case of tapping sponsors and selecting athletes for the RP delegation, he did not comment on Buhain's decision to fund only those who passed the criteria of either a silver medal in the 2001 SEAG in Kuala Lumpur or a bronze in the 2002 Asian Games.

Only 279 athletes passed the PSC criteria so far and any addition to the list will be decided based on recommendations by a task force Buhain created recently.

The POC, however, announced a roster of 361 athletes Thursday, with about 100 more boosting the lineup before the September deadline for final submission of entries.

The lineup was a result of the POC's use of a less stringent criteria that included a top-8 finish in the Asian Games.

The POC had promised, however, to fund the athletes who will be ignored by the PSC in its desire to justify every cent spent by the government for the SEAG.

Elizalde wrote Buhain Thursday to affirm the POC's right in selecting and outfitting the national team in international competitions.

Elizalde quoted part of chapter 4 of the Olympic charter that said the POC has the right to "constitute, organize and lead respective delegations at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronized by the IOC."

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2003; Day 5 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.); Third Round, Day 5; 9 a.m. (r); Day 6; 7 p.m.; Star Sports - The field is further narrowed down as the most popular grass court tournament reaches the homestretch.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Qualifying - Allianz Grand Prix of Europe; 5:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports; 7:55 p.m.; ESPN - The speed demons gear up for another exhilarating race.

BASEBALL: MLB - Mets vs Yankees; 7 a.m. (r - 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Inter-league play gets going as New York's finest renew their famed rivalry.

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Clocks	*Coldplay*	**MTONE CLOCKS**
Maybe	*Enrique Iglesias*	**MTONE MAYBE**
In Da Club	*50 Cent*	**MTONE INDACLUB**
All I Have	*Jennifer Lopez*	**MTONE ALLIHAVE**
If You're Not The One	*Daniel Bedingfield*	**MTONE IFYOURNOT**
Can't Get No Satisfaction	*Rolling Stones*	**MTONE SATISFAC**
Uptown Girl	*Billy Joel*	**MTONE UPTOWN**
We Will Rock You	*Queen*	**MTONE WEWILL**
Don't Know Why	*Norah Jones*	**MTONE DONTKNOW**

Title	Artist	Keywords
Bakit Papa	*Sex Bomb*	**MTONE BAKITPAPA**
American Life	*Madonna*	**MTONE AMERICAN**
YMCA	*Village People*	**MTONE YMCA**
Anna	*Apo Hiking Society*	**MTONE ANNA**
Smoke On The Water	*Deep Purple*	**MTONE SMOKEON**
I Miss You	*Aaliyah*	**MTONE IMISS**
More Than A Woman	*Aaliyah*	**MTONE MORETHAN**
Escape	*Enrique Iglesias*	**MTONE ESCAPE**
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With IM title secured, Dableo seeks crown

By Roy Luarca

FILIPINO Ronald Dableo has the IM title in his grasp, will the Asian Zonal crown come next?

The answer partly hinges on the outcome of his eighth-round match with compatriot GM Joey Antonio Friday night at the First Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Despite handling black, Dableo downed Fide master Nguyen Ngoc Truong in the seventh round Thursday to tighten his grip of the lead in the nine-round Swiss System event.

With six points, the 24-year-old Dableo needs only to draw with Antonio and his final opponent to assure himself of at least a share of the Asian Zone 3.2a title and a slot to next year's world chess championship.

"I'm really happy to get the IM title, please pray that I'll make it to the world championship, too," Dableo said in his text to NM Marlon Bernardino yesterday.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general Sammy Estimo said based on the computations of international arbiter Gene Poliarco, Dableo has attained the needed result for an IM title based on the Fide (World Chess Federation) guidelines.

There's a hitch though. Dableo needs to raise his current Elo rating of 2305 to 2400 before he can be officially conferred the IM title in the 2004 Fide Congress.

DABLEO: New Filipino IM seeks to make it to the world championship.

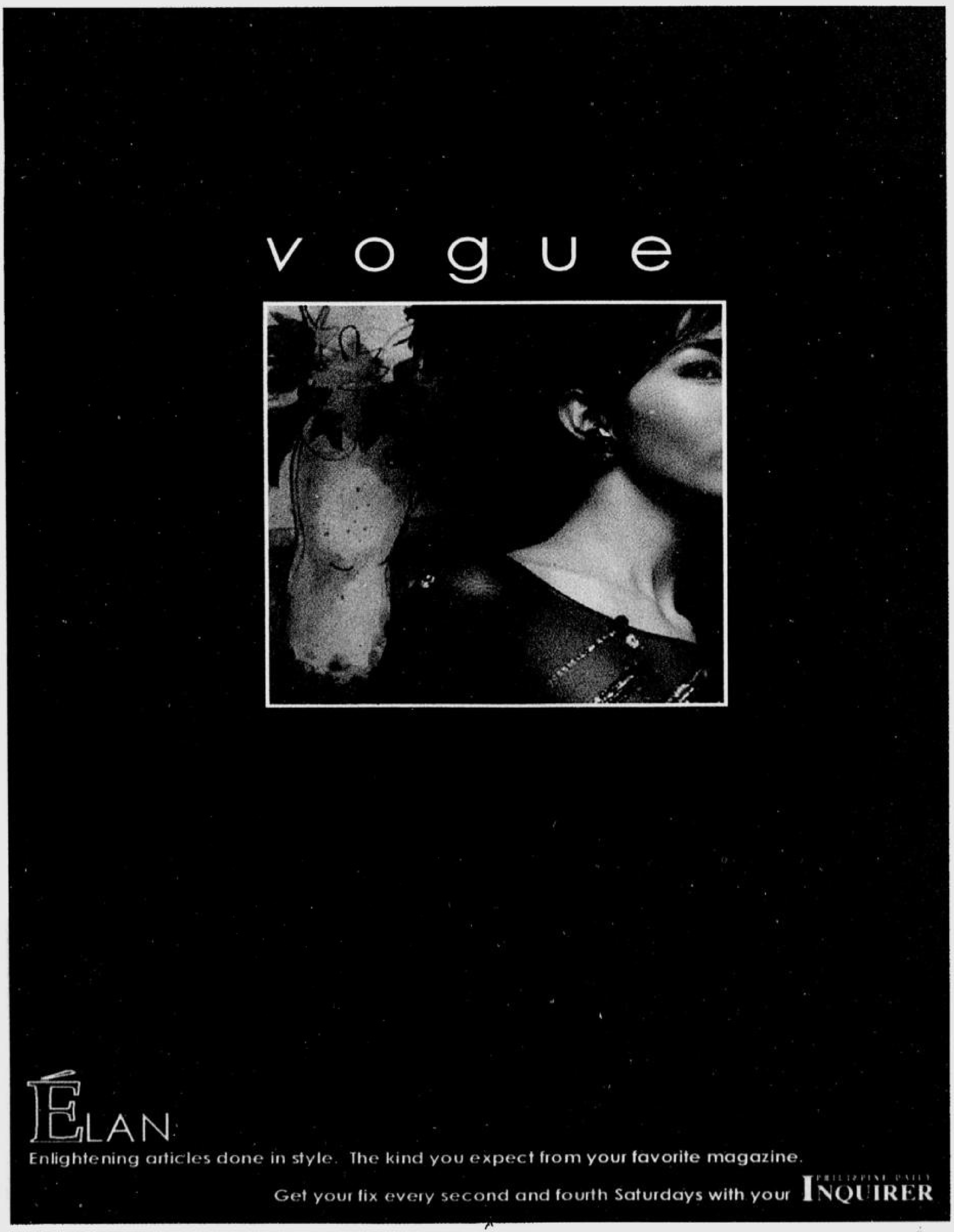
Sharing 5 points with Antonio, who dealt Vietnamese protege Le Quang Liem his second straight defeat; were top seeded Singaporean GM Wu Shaobin, Indon Fide master Irwanto Sadikin and Vietnamese Pham Chuong.

GM Bong Villamayor climbed to 4.5 points with a victory over Duong The Anh, catching up with GM-candidate Mark Paragua, who tasted his first defeat after three straight wins and three straight draws at the hand of Sadikin.

GM Eugene Torre stayed at 4 points and bowed out of contention following a loss to Chuong.

Resurgent WIM Arianne Caoili defeated second ranked Mongontuul Bathuyag of Mongolia to vault to second place in the women's division with 5 points.

The 16-year-old Caoili faces pacesetter Nguyen Thi Thanhan (5.5) in the penultimate round, needing a win to boost her chances of advancing to the world championships.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Embattled chessers seek help

DESPERATE for help, International Masters Christine Rose Mariano and Sherri Joy Lomibao of the Philippine women's team, now want Senator Robert Barbers and Rep. Monico Puentevella as mediators in their ongoing row with the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

The 30-year-old Mariano, a former child wonder, and the 23-year-old Lomibao said during the SCOOP Forum yesterday that they are

"feeling helpless" since their gripes against alleged anomalies in the NCPF have fallen on deaf ears.

"We don't know whether we can see an end to our problem. We just want transparency and we're fighting for our rights as national athletes," Mariano said.

Barbers and Puentevella chair the Senate and the House committee on sports, respectively.

Lomibao said she can no longer concentrate in playing because of the problem.

"But I know that I can regain my form as soon this is over. I'm ready to defend my title in the National Open," Lomibao, a psychology graduate said.

Mariano and Lomibao have already appealed to PSC Chair Eric Buhain and POC President Celso Dayrit for help in settling their differences with the NCPF.

They had earlier sought the intervention of former FIDE president Florencio Campomanes but were told to concentrate on doing their assigned tasks instead. Dennis U. Eroa

Bitoon, 2 others lead with 3 pts

TACLOBAN, Leyte—Newly installed International Master Richard Bitoon defeated National Master Venerando Malinao in 49 moves of a Sicilian defense-Keres Attack variation to remain on top after three rounds of the 2003 Governor Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla Chess Championships yesterday at the SMED Building Capitol grounds here.

Bitoon, a Cebuano, picked up his third straight point to keep pace with NM Rodolfo Diaz and untitled Roland Salvador

Salvador, of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, beat 16th seed NM Elwin Retanal of Cebu after 53 moves of a Kings Indian Defense, while Diaz of Tacloban City bested Erwin Ababat of Cebu in 40 moves of a Queens Gambit accepted.

Meanwhile, top seed IM Chito Garma of Manila bounced back after losing to 40th seed Eddie Goh of Tacloban City in the opening round.

He crushed 38th seed and Cebu pride Francisco Abugho to score 2.5 points, along with NM Emmanuel Senador of Iloilo City, NM Rolly Martinez, NM Ronald Llavanes, NM Ernesto Fernandez, NM Mirabeau Maga, NM Ponciano Badilles, NM Levi Mercado and four others.

PBA going back to Astrodome

By June Navarro

THE CUNETA Astrodome has again become the home of the Philippine Basketball Association.

This developed after PBA Commissioner Noli Eala and Pasay City mayor Wenceslao ``Peewee" Trinidad yesterday signed an agreement allowing the league to exercise full control over the facility, including the right to negotiate with advertisers freely.

The PBA's move stemmed from its advertising problems with the Araneta Coliseum and Philsports Arena, which, the league claimed, lured on-court sponsors without prior notice and consent from the league.

Although the PBA is expected to still hold some games at the Araneta and Philsports, PBA media bureau chief Willie Marcial said the Astrodome would be its permanent home and sanctuary if and when negotiations with both venues totally get out of hand.

Marcial said some of the games during the All Filipino Finals would be played at the Astrodome, whose renovation at a cost of P8 million is almost nearing completion. He said the league's P4 million share in refurbishing the old PBA venue will be considered as rental fee for the Astrodome which is expected to host as many as two playing days each week in the next conference.

The Astrodome served as permanent home of the league in the mid '90s until maintenance problems forced the PBA to abandon it in favor of Philsports in 1997.

Dangerous precedent

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I READ in the papers that the PBA will do away with drug testing for foreign teams during the league's invitational series. If that is true, what's the PBA trying to prove, that it will be drug-free when the foreign-spiced tournament is held?

I don't see any logic there.

Teams from our Asian neighbors like China and Korea are supposed to come. Already, it's been reported that a team from Yugoslavia has assured the PBA of its arrival for the tournament set to open either next month or early August.

Scrapping the drug tests will set a dangerous precedent. We will only be sending the wrong signals to the Bayan of Superstars.

It will tell our people that drug tests are purely for Filipinos.

It will tell our people that foreigners are not covered by PBA rules.

It will tell our people that the league adopts rules to suit its own needs.

Or are we ready to call the PBA the Bayan of Supersatsat? Good in talking, lacking in deed.

Think about it, fellas. Aren't we waiving a very crucial league policy simply to accommodate foreign teams? Have we fallen into desperate times, dire straits even, that we have to do away with a rule merely to please our visitors? What has become of the PBA, a tourist attraction?

We might be giving Abu Sayyaf some wild ideas about intruding into our turf.

People hailed the PBA for going after drug offenders in the league. Left and right, the kudos came when the league scored haul after haul of big name drug users.

And now this, the move to suddenly scrap drug testing.

Why are we so afraid of foreigners? Why can't we treat them as normal people just like us? Why can't we, for once, copy the Roman line: ``When in Rome, do what the Romans do."

Let them know it when the Chinese, the Koreans, the Yugoslavians arrive: ``When in the Philippines, do what the Filipinos do." Meaning, they should do what we normally do, that they also be required to undergo drug testing just like we do to the rest of our players.

I don't think we are just being fair if we had them undergo drug testing.

I think that is simply the right thing to do. Period.

In short, we've got to put an end to all this hypocrisy.

It was just not too long ago that our five-star hotels teemed with foreigners, who did speak and act like they owned our country while our countrymen were merely seated on the fringes and contented themselves with the thought of being second-class citizens in their own homes.

The times, they are a-changing.

The hotel lobbies now are mostly peopled by Filipinos, chin up, seemingly shouting to the whole world that they are proud to be Pinoys. They have started to speak and act like real inhabitants of a place they truly call home. If, by chance, there are foreigners around, they have now become co-equal with us, if not second-class citizens in a land not their own.

Seemingly, the PBA hasn't reached out to the outer world, hasn't gotten out of its Jurassic brains.

Or has it suddenly closeted itself, afraid to face the real world because of a logic that is as crooked as Don King's hairdo?

Is the PBA dying?

If so, quick! Call the Prietos, Marquezes, Saluds, Bernardinos, even the Barrioses. Basketball doctors all. They must know which medicine to prescribe to cure the disease. They've been there before, they've seen it all happen. Scalping virus and all. The worst of the worst, like game-fixing, name it, they've licked it. Seemingly, the present doctor is bent on destroying everything that Prieto & Co. have established: A solid foundation of pure sports entertainment.

I wonder what kind of entertainment is in store for us come the PBA second conference.

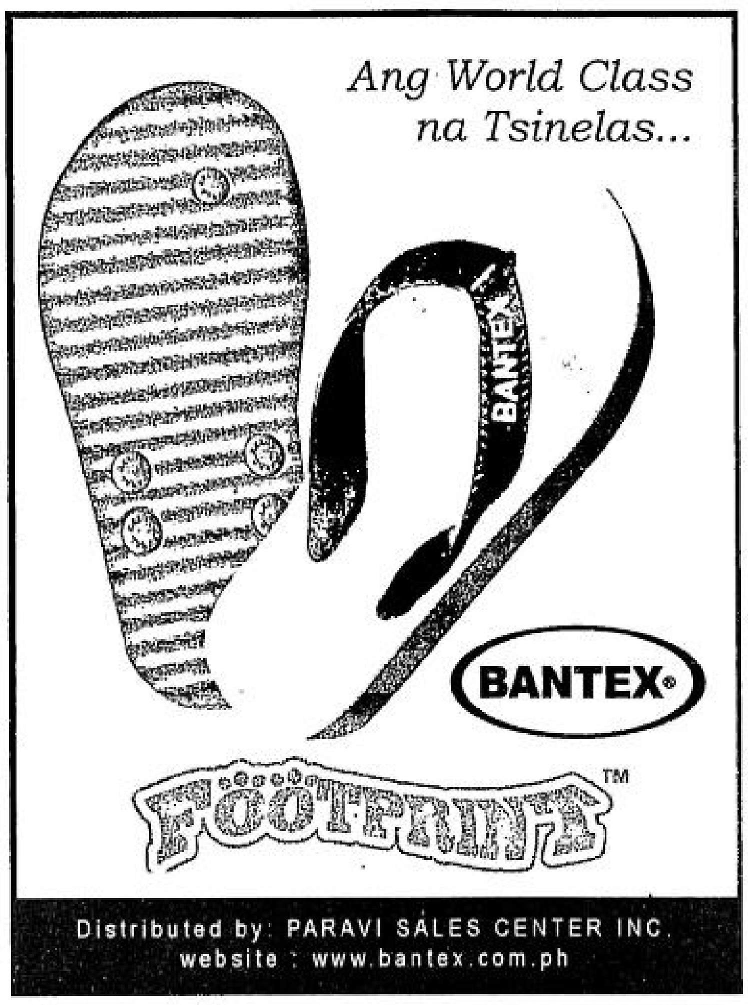
I'll just cover my eyes when the time comes?

No, I think I have a better solution.

I'll drug myself to sleep.

***

FASTBREAK. Here's a glass to Dick Sinchongco, who topped the media division of the recent Reynaldo Berroya Shooting tournament. Lorrie Ilustre beat former Marikina councilor Sonny Parsons and former solicitor general Frank Chavez in the celebrity class of the Reebok-sponsored event at Camp Karingal in Quezon City.



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GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Perpetual
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs JRU
6 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU
8 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran

By June Navarro

IT'S TIME to live up to the hype surrounding the buildup of teams in the oldest collegiate league in the country when the 79th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament reels off today at the Araneta Coliseum.

San Sebastian, NCAA king the last two years, will try its hand at another championship bid in an effort to duplicate the Stags' awesome title run in the '90s.

The Stags, who will open their season against perennial title contender Jose Rizal in the 4 p.m. mainer, captured five straight championships in the mid-'90s.

But coach Turo Valenzona, chief architect of San Sebastian's back-to-back title romp, downplayed the chances of the Stags and picked University of Perpetual Help-Rizal and College of St. Benilde as the heavy favorites.

The CSB Blazers tackle the UPHR Altas in the curtain-raiser after an expected colorful opening ceremony revolving on the theme ``NCAA at 79: A Family Through Time" beginning at 1 p.m.

San Sebastian is this year's host with Francisco Gusi Jr., the Stags' athletic director, acting as chair of the all-powerful NCAA Management Committee.

Graham Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines,will sit as league commissioner.

Former PBA chair and Shell executive Rey Gamboa, an alumnus of San Sebastian, is this year's guest of honor.

The opening ceremony and the first two games will be aired live over Studio 23. Games will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Valenzona, the winningest NCAA coach in the last two decades, will only have five holdovers from his championship core last year with Finals MVP Leomar Najorda, the 6-foot-7 Pep Moore and the slam-dunking Nicole Uy taking the offensive cudgels for the Stags this time.

The Stags are expected to face rough sailing from the vastly improved Altas, who emerged as champions in the recently concluded Ambrosio Padilla Cup.

UPHR head coach Bai Cristobal will rely heavily on veterans Marcel Cuenco, Ferdinand Ali-ali, Gerald Botin, Mark Tayer, Rommel Balboa, Mark Aseron, James Quiazon and rookies Robert Barnson and Vladimir Joe.

The Blazers, the 2000 champions, will miss the services of 2001 season MVP Sunday Salvacion but will have Al Magpayo, Ronald Capati, Unik Reyes, Paolo Orbeta and Estelitus Mendoza on their formidable lineup.

Other games pit the Philippine Christian University Dolphins against the San Beda Lions at 6 p.m. and the Mapua Cardinals against the Letran Knights in the 8 o'clock nightcap.

The Dolphins and the Red Lions figured in free-for-all last year that saw a total of 16 players being ejected, almost wiping out the entire roster of the Dolphins.

Judge me on merits, says Lim

By Dennis U. Eroa

LIM

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim yesterday appealed to his critics to judge him on merits as he sits as commissioner of the 79th NCAA season.

In an open letter he sent to the INQUIRER, Lim said he expected to be criticized when he decided to accept the commissioner's post.

"It is impossible to please everybody. The NCAA has spoken and I am honored to accept the challenge," Lim wrote.

He also vowed to become a "good" commissioner to prove his critics wrong.

While describing the job as "no picnic," Lim said he accepted the offer of the NCAA management committee because he believes in the ideals fostered by the country's oldest collegiate sporting league.

"The NCAA compared to my humble self is an institution. And it is an honor to be a part of its rich history," said Lim.

Lim added that he accepted the post in order to make a difference.

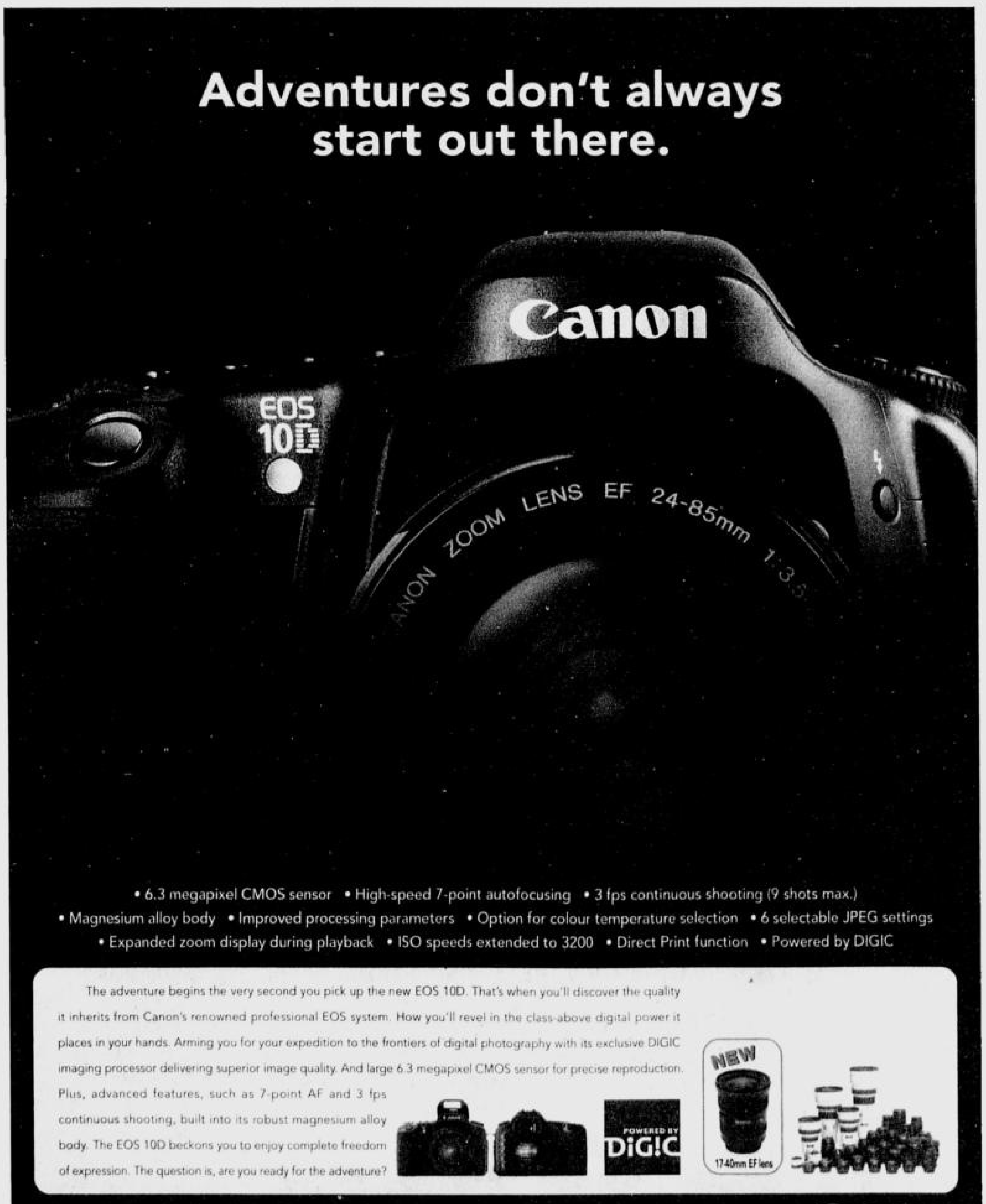
"As secretary general of the BAP and head of the Basketball Referees Commission, I can assure the NCAA that the referees working the games will officiate as they see it, or suffer the penalties that we have outlined for them," Lim stressed.

Lim said his critics have compared him with Ramon Fernandez, also a nominee for commissioner.

"I have the highest respect for Mr. Fernandez and will be the first to congratulate him if he was chosen," Lim said.

Lim also hurled a challenge to those who are questioning his integrity.

"Show me even the tiniest proof that I have abused my power as BAP secretary general and I would gladly give up the post of NCAA Commissioner."



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ENRICO Villanueva (left) and BJ Manalo typify the heated Ateneo-La Salle rivarly last year. Villanueva is now with Red Bull while Manalo is injured. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Archers

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO is the defending champion, three other teams are solid threats but no one is taking La Salle for granted.

This is because the Archers have not finished lower than second in the last nine years of the UAAP basketball tournament and despite a rookie-laden roster this year La Salle just might march to an impressive 10th straight stint in the finals.

"La Salle is always La Salle," Sandy Arespacochaga, Ateneo's youthful assistant coach, said yesterday as he paid tribute to the Archers as a legitimate title contender when the league's 66th season opens on July 12 at the Big Dome.

Arespacochaga, representing head coach Joel Banal, told the SCOOP Forum at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue that for Ateneo to repeat requires hurdling equally determined rivals which inclu

A former Eagle himself,
mentioned University of t
University and National U
threats to the Eagles' ambit

Last year, Ateneo stoppe
"five-peat" in an epic be
onship series which merit
ment from the INQUIRER an

"UE is definitely a dange
Warriors have proven the
post season. FEU and NU a
of course, La Salle," Arespa

La Salle's Gie Abanilla
longtime deputy, and Univ
Djalma Arnedo also graced

The Archers won four
1998 to 2001, but their re
courtesy of Ateneo, which
twice in the Final Four to m

Abanilla, just like Puma

Doves test Tams in Grudge Games

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—St. Clare vs Assumption-Pam'nga
4 p.m.—St. Francis vs FEU

COLLEGIATE CAGE powers St. Francis of Assisi and Far Eastern University clash at 4 p.m. today in resumption of the Grudge Games at the Makati Coliseum. St. Francis is the reigning national inter-collegiate titlist while FEU is a perennial contender in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

The St. Francis Doves, who have represented the country in several international competitions, will draw power from national pool member Ranidel de Ocampo and PBL mainstays Errvin Sotto, Al Vergara and Nazir Kiram.

Spearheading the FEU Tamaraws, who formed the core of PBL Unity Cup second placer Viva Mineral Water, are Dennis Miranda, Gerard Jones, Rhagnee Singco and Mark Isip.

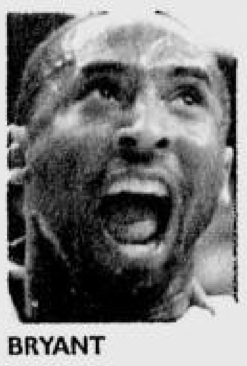
The Tamaraws will join fellow UAAP teams University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines, Adamson
La Salle, National University and
versity of the East as automatic s
in the Champions League nati
championships in November.

Defending champion Ate
which missed the services of
Wesley Gonzales and Rich Alva
lost to fired-up San Beda Colleg
Tuesday

The top four teams in the U
NCAA and Cesafi (Cebu, plus
champions of NCRAA, Cusa, Na
Ucaa, Southern NCAA, BEAL-Ba
Ucaap-Dagupan, Nopcea-Bac
Isaa-Iloilo, Prisaa-Davao and I
school-Dumaguete, are seeded to
tournament proper.

If any of the following schools f
make the grade in their respe
mother. leagues, Las Piñas Col
UST, University of Manila, UP, A
son, La Salle, Emilio Aguinaldo
lege, San Beda and UE, by virtu
their performances in the Gr
Games, get outright tickets non
less.

Kobe turns free agent ready to leave Lakers



BRYANT

NEW YORK—Kobe Bryant has decided to become a free agent after the next National Basketball Association season and might leave the Los Angeles Lakers, ESPN reported here Thursday.

Bryant, the talented playmaker who combined with center Shaquille O'Neal to lead the Lakers to three NBA titles in a row, reportedly said he wants to be a free agent for the first time since age 17.

The Lakers lost to eventual champion San Antonio in the second round of the NBA playoffs and struggled through the season, finishing fifth in the Western Conference.

The report said Bryant will decide his future on three issues—how well O'Neal is playing, what moves the Lakers have made to improve and the medical status of coach Phil Jackson.

Jackson said he plans to be back next season despite h
problems during the
offs. He also wond
about Bryant announ
his decision so far ahe
time.

"It's neither a sur
nor did I expect it,"
son said. "It's rather
mature, the news
There was a lot of tim
fore the decision had
made." On his own s
Jackson said, "I feel great right n
everything medically works out fo
I should be back to coaching next
son." Jackson said he has spoken
O'Neal about making a commitme
returning to the Most Valuable P
form he showed in prior seasons.

"He talked seriously about chall
ing for the MVP," Jackson said. "I
him he's the Most Valuable Play
the NBA and that he should play h
and go out and prove it."

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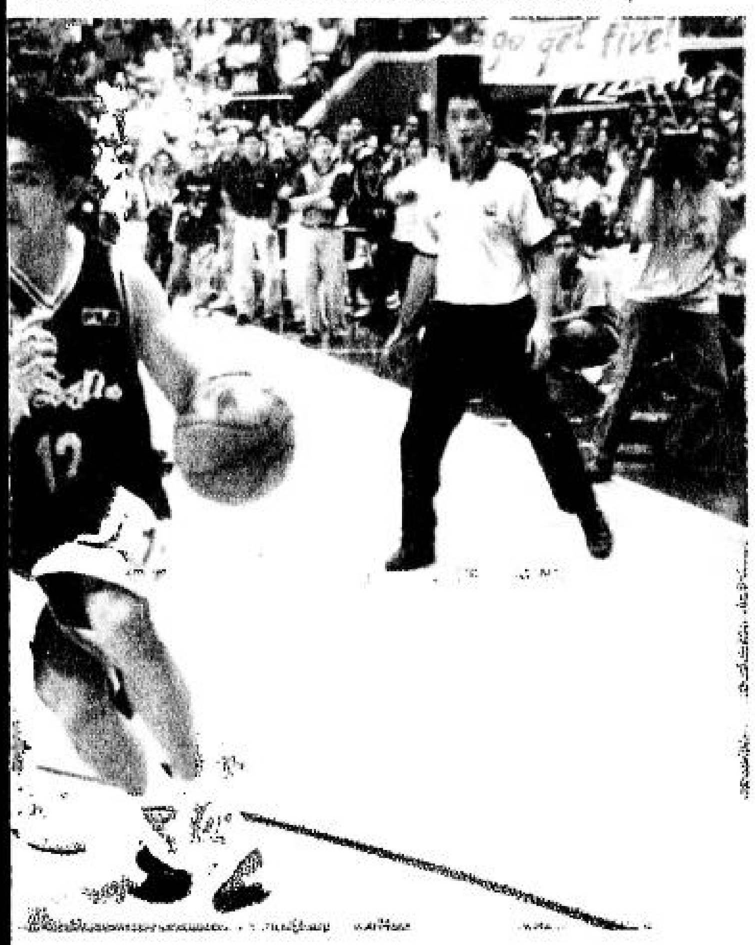

’ threat

de La Salle.
Arespacochaga also
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La Salle’s bid for a
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straight titles from
ign ended last year
needed to beat UE
ake the finals.
en, downplayed La

Salle’s chances this year mainly because it will parade seven rookies this year.

“UE should be on top of the rankings,” Abanilla said. “Our aim is to make the Final Four before thinking of the next level. Let’s see what happens,” he added.

Ateneo will miss the familiar figure of Enrico Villanueva in the middle along with Sonny Tadeo, Gec Chia, Andrew Quimpo and Paul Tan-Chi.

But Ateneo remains deadly withRich Alvarez, Wesley Gonzales, Larry Fonacier and the returning Paolo Bugia and Magnum Membrere. The new Eagles are Ford Arao, Zach Escueta and Chris Tiu.

Playmaker Mike Cortez, Willy Wilson, BJ Manalo and Adonis Sta. Maria are gone and La Salle is still looking for a shooter in the mold of Ren Ren Ritualo.

Abanilla mentioned rookie Joseph Casio, Arao’s San Beda teammate, as a Ritualo understudy.

Yao, Bugia back

IF THEY AREN’T made of sterner stuff, Ateneo’s Paolo Bugia and Eric Yao would have already bid goodbye to the sport closest to their hearts.

But they are.

After busting their respective knees, the 6-foot-6 Bugia and the 6-foot-1 Yao are back anew to try and help the Blue Eagles retain their cage diadem in this year’s UAAP cage wars.

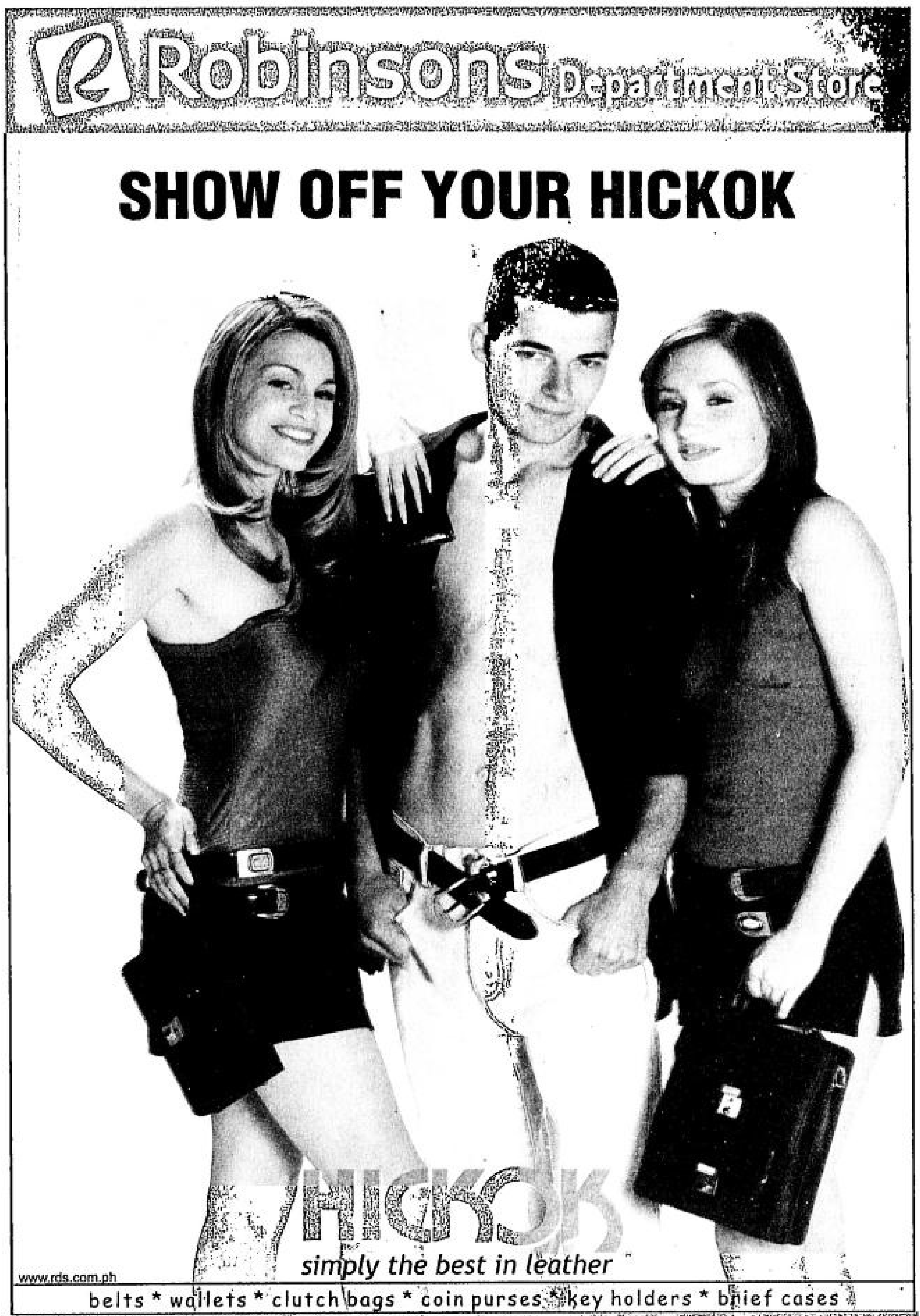
“Even while I was still recuperating, there’s no doubt that I would not be around,” said Bugia, whose season was ruined by a bad fall during Ateneo’s pre-season PBL stint last year.

Yao’s career has been marred by an assortment of injuries. Now in his fourth year with the Eagles, Yao, 22, played only three games in his rookie year before being sidelined by a career-threatening knee injury.

This Kevin Garnett-fan will team up with Rich Alvarez in manning the middle for the Eagles.

“I gained inspiration from a book about NBA great Willis Reed, who also came back after suffering an injury,” said Bugia, whose father Chito saw action for San Beda and Yco.

Dennis U. Eroa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FOE is stretched off the pitch after collapsing. REUTERS

Victory, and then sorrow

Booter's death mars Cameroon march to final vs France

YAOUNDE—Cheers of celebration turned to screams of disbelief in Cameroon on Thursday as news of midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe's death followed the team's hard-fought victory over Colombia in the Confederations Cup semifinal.

Several people collapsed and had to be taken to hospital in the capital while thousands hurried home from bars where they had been watching the game.

State television said President Paul Biya had sent a message of condolence to the family of Foe, who collapsed 18 minutes from the end of the African champions' win over Colombia in Lyon, France.

"For a moment we were so happy, but then there was crying in the streets, crying in the districts and crying in the towns.

Everywhere there was crying," said civil servant Martha Chinda.

"We are all in mourning."

Foe, a 28-year-old who had played in all three of Cameroon's games at last year's World Cup, fell to his knees in the 71st minute of the game in Lyon, where the temperature was in the low 30-degrees Celsius. He was lapsing into unconsciousness when he was carried off the field on a stretcher to the sideline, where he received treatment, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and oxygen.

Foe's death overshadowed his country's impressive feat of reaching the Cup finals against host and defending champion France.

France, playing just hours after Foe's death, relied on three goals from its Arsenal players Thierry Henry, Robert Pires and Sylvain Wiltord to beat Turkey, 3-2, in the second semifinal in Saint-Denise.

FIFA held a moment of silence in memory of the Cameroon player.

AP, Reuters

Agassi, Henin, Serena advance

WIMBLEDON, England—With an overhead slam on match point, Andre Agassi punctuated a polished performance in the second round at Wimbledon.

Agassi dominated the baseline rallies, lost his serve only once and beat Lars Burgsmuller 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 Thursday.

The second-seeded Agassi had 31 winners and just 14 unforced errors. He won 11 of 12 points when he came to the net.

"A good horse is going to jump as high as they need to," three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker said. "Andre is doing that."

Agassi will next play No. 27-seeded Younes El Aynaoui, who beat Nicolas Massu.

Serena Williams, the top-seeded defending women's champion, smacked 22 winners and defeated Els Callens 6-4, 6-4.

Maria Sharapova, a highly touted 16-year-old Russian making her Wimbledon debut, upset No. 21 Elena Bovina 6-3, 6-1. Two-time Grand Slam champion Mary Pierce, who is unseeded, upset No. 14-seeded Eleni Daniilidou 6-4, 6-1.

French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne and Jennifer Capriati also advanced.

Other men's winners included Tim Henman, the lone British player left in the tournament, and French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Greg Rusedski was fined $2,500 by the tournament for his profane tirade during the final set of his loss Wednesday to Andy Roddick. Tantrum expert John McEnroe found the punishment surprisingly lenient.

"They cannot be serious," McEnroe said. "I'd be in jail for that."

Agassi, who overtook Lleyton Hewitt for the No. 1 ranking earlier this month, improved his record this year to 32-4. The 1992 Wimbledon champion is favored by London oddsmakers to reach the final against Roddick.

Agassi lost his serve in the opening game of the second set against Burgsmuller, then broke back in the eighth game when the German made three unforced errors. Agassi quickly took charge of the tiebreaker and breezed through the final set.

"I'm doing what I need to do," Agassi said. "It's always sort of nice to play those tight sets and play the big points well, and today I did that."

Pierce, ranked 86th and plagued by injuries in recent years, advanced to the third round of a major event for the first time since Wimbledon last year. She lost in the opening round at this year's French Open, and in the second round at the Australian Open.

"I'm just happy to be healthy and competing," she said.

The 28-year-old Pierce has battled back, shoulder, abdominal, ankle and groin injuries.

"There was one time where I was doubtful if I would be able to play again," she said. "I know I'm not at my best form right now. I'd like to be able to give myself probably at least six months."

No. 3-seeded Henin-Hardenne beat Flavia Pennetta 7-6 (2), 6-1. Capriati hit nine aces, including one on match point, to beat Marie-Gaianeh Mikaelian 6-2, 6-1.

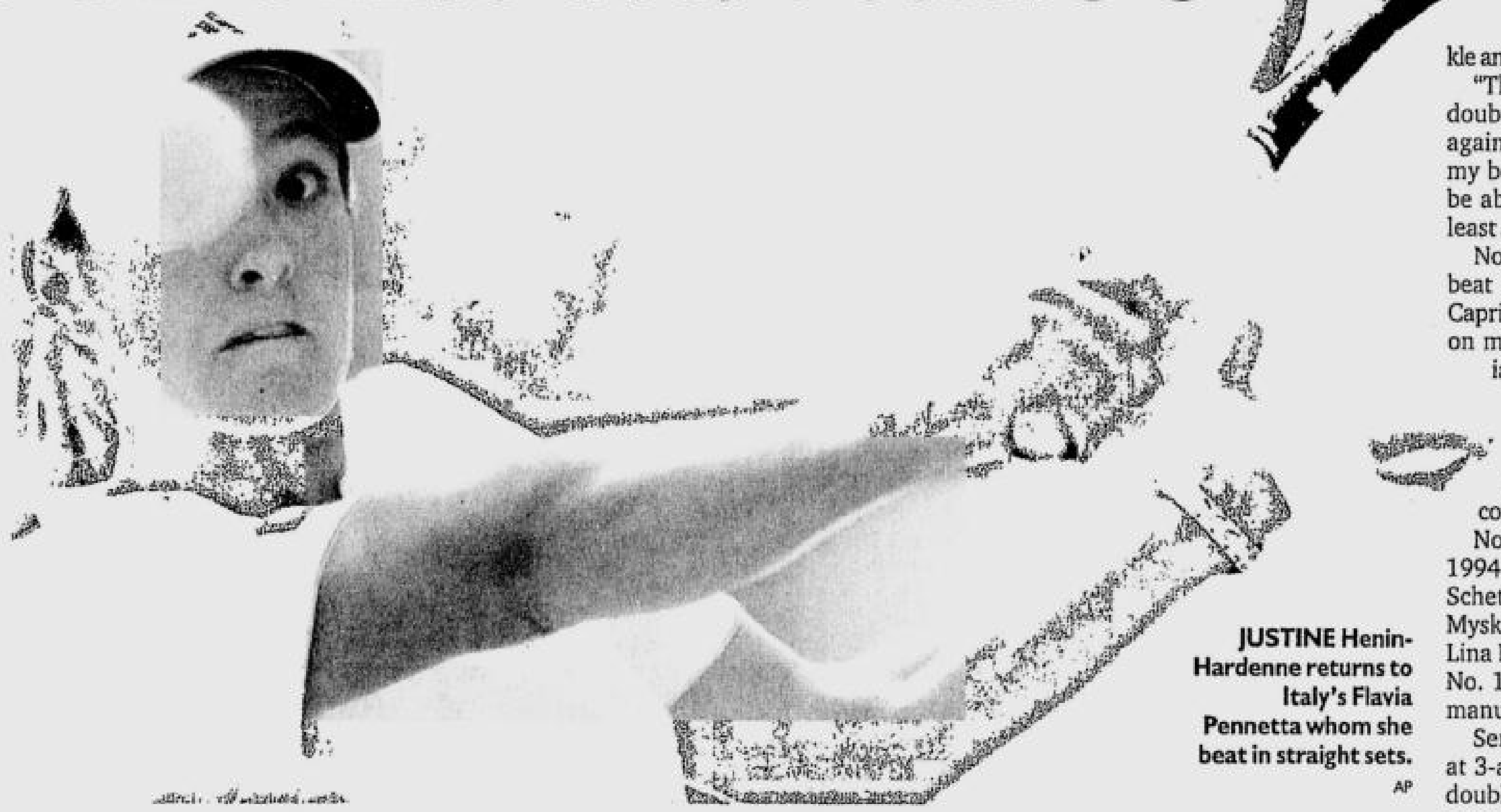
"I served well on big points," said Capriati, seeded eighth. "It makes things a little easier when you can come up with big serves."

No. 18 Conchita Martinez, the 1994 champion, swept Barbara Schett 6-2, 6-4. No. 10 Anastasia Myskina beat Russian compatriot Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-1, 6-4, and No. 11 Jelena Dokic defeated Emmanuelle Gagliardi 6-1, 6-3.

Serena and Venus Williams were at 3-all in the third set when their doubles match against Corina Morariu and Rennae Stubbs was suspended because of darkness.

In men's play, No. 26-seeded American James Blake lost to Sargis Sargsian 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Henman beat Michael Llodra 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. He'll next play Robin Soderling, who eliminated Gilles Elseneer 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-3.



JUSTINE Henin-Hardenne returns to Italy's Flavia Pennetta whom she beat in straight sets. AP

Man in brawl with Tyson freed on bail

NEW YORK—One of two men charged in a street brawl with Mike Tyson was released from jail Thursday after attorneys failed to produce a sworn statement from the former heavyweight champion.

Samuel Velez, 31, of Reading, Pennsylvania held on $2,000 bail after being charged with misdemeanor menacing and harassment following the fight with Tyson last week outside a Brooklyn hotel.

When Justice Gene Lopez learned that Tyson's attorneys had not filed an affidavit from Tyson needed to keep Velez behind bars, he ordered the defendant released from Rikers Island. Velez and Nestor Alvarez-Ramos, who was also charged in the fight but not jailed, were to return to court July 30.

Assistant District Attorney Paul Hirsch refused to discuss why Tyson had not given a sworn statement. Shelly Finkel, adviser to the Brooklyn-born boxer, declined comment.

Tyson was charged with misdemeanor assault and issued an appearance ticket rather than going to arraignment. He is due in court July 24. *AP*

FIRST GENTLEMAN'S CUP

Umali paces early finishers

A NET 67.6 gave Angel Umali the temporary overall individual leadership yesterday in the second First Gentleman's Cup at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Umali, the Waterfront 2 stalwart, returned a gross score of 10 over par to take the clubhouse lead among those who played the West course in the event launched by Mike Arroyo to raise funds for his projects.

With a handicap of 12.4, Umali netted that 67.6 based on the double Peoria, a system that picks six holes in each nine to determine a player's score.

Former Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason of First Resorts Management and Jolly Ting 3's Gary Go came up with 68.4 each to share second place.

Completing the top five were Edison Tantoco of Kok Bin Chan 2 and Waterfront 2's Akihisa Nishina with 68.6s.

The five were among the record field of 428 representing 107 teams that competed in the 18-hole event. This forced organizers to also use the nearby East course to accommodate them all.

The First Gentleman hit the ceremonial drive. One special visitor was his wife—President Macapagal-Arroyo.

San Miguel Corp., WG&A Inc., Philippine National Oil Co. International Container Terminal Services Inc., GMA 7, Photokina Marketing Corp. and Asia Brewery were this year's sponsors.

ST. LOUIS Cardinals third baseman Scott Rolen (right) kicks the sliding Adam Dunn in the face as the ball bounces free while Dunn was trying to steal third during the second inning of their game in St. Louis. Dunn was safe but the Cardinals won, 4-2. AP

Delgado's 2 homers spark Jays' rampage

TORONTO—Carlos Delgado hit a pair of homers and drove in five runs as the Toronto Blue Jays mauled the Baltimore Orioles 13-8 in American league action on Wednesday.

Delgado leads the American League in home runs with 25 and the major leagues in RBI with 86.

The final RBI was the 900th of his career as he helped the Blue jays salvage a split of the series.

Tom Wilson went four-for-four for the Blue Jays and also homered, while Vernon Wells added three hits and drove in a pair of runs while extending his hitting streak to 18 games. *Reuters*

7-birdie string puts Haas ahead

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Jay Haas fired seven consecutive birdies, one shy of matching the US PGA Tour record run, on his way to a seven-under par 64 here Thursday and a share of the St. Jude Classic lead.

Haas, on the verge of joining the over-50 circuit, was equaled at 64 by PGA rookie Darron Stiles, whose bogey-free round included an eagle and five birdies.

Two thunderstorm delays led to darkness halting play with 56 golfers still on the course and set to complete their rounds Friday morning.

Robert Damron shot a 65, a stroke better than David Gossett, Stan Utley and Dennis Paulsen. David Peoples was six-under after 16 holes, while Len Mattiace is five-under with the 18th still to play. *AFP*

WATSON

In-form Watson leads US Seniors with 66

TOLEDO, Ohio—Tom Watson seized a three-stroke lead Thursday during the rain-halted first round of the US Senior Open, firing a five-under-par 66 here at Inverness.

Two weeks removed from his stirring first-round performance at the US Open, Watson took charge at the PGA Champions Tour major with seven birdies, including three in a row on the back nine, against only two bogeys.

A storm halted play with 36 men still on the course to finish their round Friday before the start of the second round.

Watson, who joined the over-50 circuit in 1999, has won just one major senior title–the 2001 Senior PGA Championship.

"This is one of the top two Senior tournaments we play," Watson said. "I won one and I would like to win the other." Earlier this month, Watson shared 28th at the US Open, where he grabbed a share of the first-round lead with a 65. *AFP*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 023

You be the referee

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
o True / o False: In track races, a runner is disqualified after he or she commits two false starts.

2 > 5 Pts.
In archery, what's the score of an arrow that gets embedded in another arrow?
o No score
o The same as the first arrow's

3 > 7 Pts.
In amateur boxing, competitors are not allowed to have:
o beards
o mascara
o tattoos

4 > 10 Pts.
In golf, what is the maximum number of clubs with which a player may start a round?
o 10
o 14
o 18

5 > 20 Pts.
When racking the balls in a diamond shape in 9-ball pool, the 1-ball should be at the top of the diamond, the 9-ball at the center, and the other balls in:
o ascending order
o descending order
o alternately ascending-descending order
o random order

6 > 25 Pts.
In beach volleyball, which of the following is illegal?
o Deflecting the ball off the net during a rally
o Serving from anywhere behind the end line
o Hitting the ball with the chest
o Making player substitutions

7 > 30 Pts.
As a general rule, what is the highest legal number a basketball player can wear in his or her jersey? Why?

ANSWERS/ A29

SPORTSWATCH

Olympic Day run draws 1,000

THE OLYMPIC Day Run will be held 6:30 a.m. tomorrow with more than 1,000 participants from 50 NSAs (national sports associations) and clubs answering the starting gun at Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, according to Tom Carrasco Jr., head of the Philippine Olympic Committee "Sport-for-All" Commission and the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Francisco J. Elizalde and POC president Celso L. Dayrit will be the speakers during a program after the run sponsored by Nestlé Phils., Speedo, Enervon, Uniar, McDonald's and Accel.

Provincial champs see action

PROVINCIAL sabong champions strut their stuff when the "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" begins 10 a.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Derby host Rolly Ligon said contenders include Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga, current World Slasher champ Rey Briones of Masbate, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino and ASF Group of Laguna, Commissioner Jun Sevilla, Jun Manguera and Dicky Lim of Batangas, William Co of Rizal, Dong Lacson of Iloilo, Boy Marzo of Parañaque, Nelson Uy of Rizal, Joe Mojeno of Negros and Benny Limjoco of Bulacan.

JV Ongpin Cup at San Lazaro

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Commission caps its weeklong activities tomorrow with another card highlighted by the 2003 J.V. Ongpin Cup, second leg of the Triple Crown Championship Series. Eight top-caliber 3-year-olds take center stage tomorrow afternoon at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite as they compete in the event, named in honor of the late Finance Secretary Jaime V. Ongpin for his contribution in restructuring race betting taxes in the 1980s. Heading the hunt for the coveted title is first leg (Cojuangco Cup) winner West Bound.

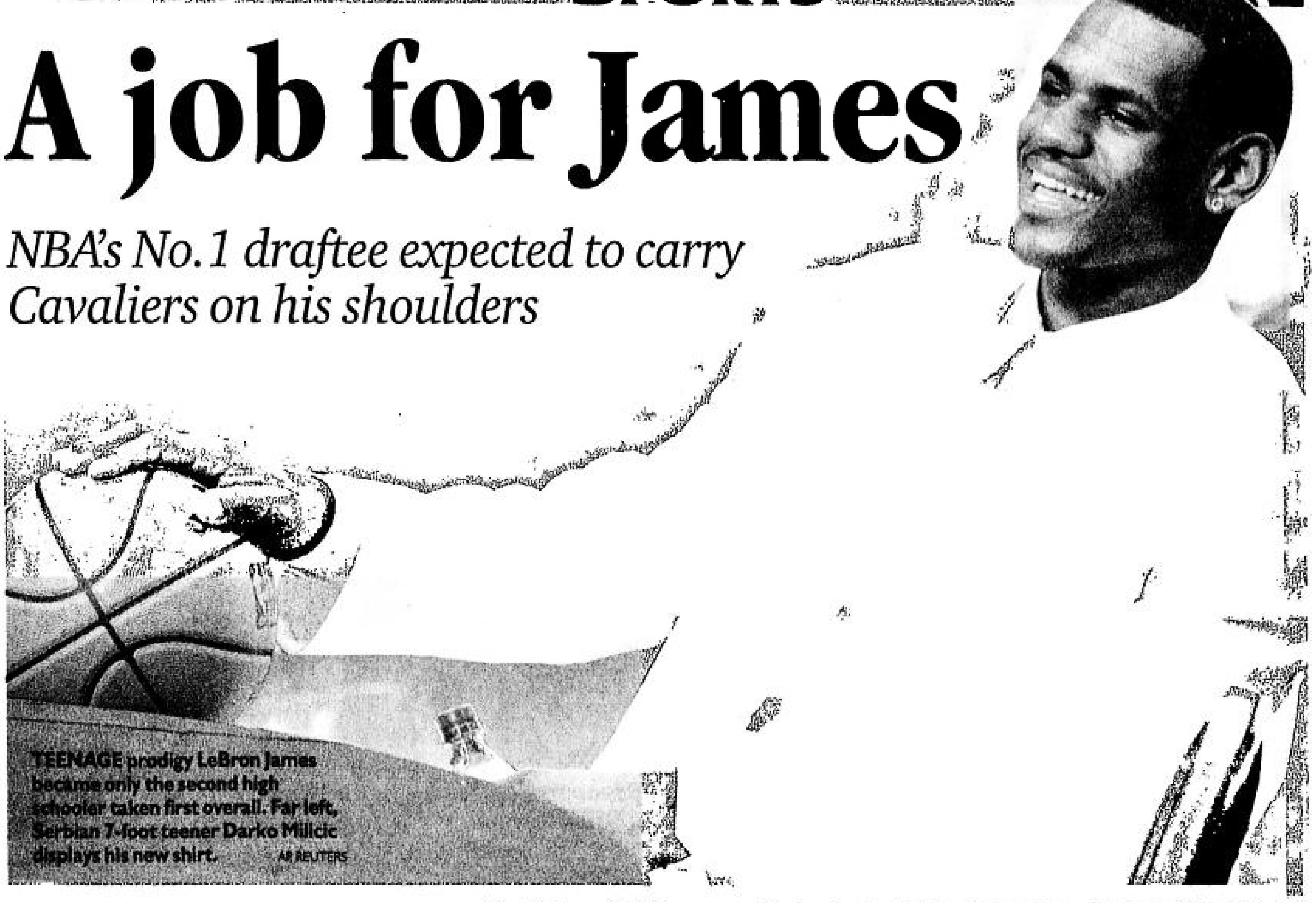
'Battle of Champs' at Big Dome

A ONE-DAY, four-cock derby under the aegis of the National Cockers Association will be held on Monday at the Araneta Coliseum. Entries to the derby, hosted by NCA president Ito Ynares and council member Louie Cua, include Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Roger Roberts, Danding Cojuangco, Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, World Slasher co-champion Golden Circle I of Matt Bitanga, Mario Villamor, Ram Lopez, Chuck Berry and Rudy Salud.

MAYOR AND THE CHAMP
Paba flyweight champion Rolly Lunas (2nd from left) with Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos. With them are boxing promoter Jun Sarreal (left) and Bing Hoyumpa. Lunas will defend his title on Aug. 8 against Thai Deeden Kengkaroon.

A job for James

NBA's No.1 draftee expected to carry Cavaliers on his shoulders



TEENAGE prodigy LeBron James became only the second high schooler taken first overall. Far left, Serbian 7-foot teener Darko Milicic displays his new shirt. AP REUTERS

NEW YORK—LeBron James was chosen No. 1 in the NBA draft Thursday and strode onstage wearing an all-white suit, appropriate garb for a player expected to be the savior of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

An NBA draft that began with the 18-year-old James, the high school phenom from Akron, Ohio, ended with a record 21 international players being chosen in the two rounds. A record nine global picks were chosen in the first round.

High school prodigy James went first overall to Cleveland, his 90 million-dollar shoe deal and televised prep games already preparing him for life in the NBA before he even suited up.

James, whose stellar youth career featured televised games and dueling sponsor deals, became only the second high schooler taken first overall, following Washington's 2001 choice of Kwame Brown, who has disappointed.

But James, who averaged 31.6 points and 9.6 rebounds a game this season has little hope of lifting the woeful Cavaliers, 17-65 last season.

"It has been a lifelong dream," James said. "All the work I put in has paid off. Just come to Cleveland and you will see it lit up like Las Vegas." Serbian 7-foot teener Darko Milicic went second to Detroit, starting a trend of worldwide talent that made up more than one of every three of the 58 total selections.

The total non-United States picks surpassed last year's record 17.

"I think some of these teams made a mistake," said Polish center Maciej Lampe, who was projected as a lottery pick but fell all the way to No. 30—the first pick of the second round—where he was selected by the New York Knicks.

Nobody was accusing the Cavs of making a mistake with their selection of James.

The most heralded high school player of a generation, James is considered a can't-miss prospect with the skills of a guard, the body of a forward and the potential of a superstar.

"I'm one of the highest publicized players in the country right now, and I haven't even played one game of basketball in the NBA. I know I'm a marked man," James said.

Carmelo Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national championship, was chosen third by the Denver Nuggets—capping the drama-less first 15 minutes.

AFP

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS

From page A28

1. True
2. The same as the first arrow's
3. Martina Navratilova
4. 14 (However, if a player starts a round with less than 14 clubs, he or she may add clubs during the round as long as the pace of play is not affected.)
5. random order
6. Making player substitutions
7. 55 (Why? Like other normal human beings, basketball officials have only five fingers on each hand with which to report jersey numbers to the scorer.)

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SPORTSWATCH

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THE OLYMPIC Day Run will be held 6:30 a.m. tomorrow with more than 1,000 participants from 50 NSAs (national sports associations) and clubs answering the starting gun at Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, according to Tom Carrasco Jr., head of the Philippine Olympic Committee "Sport-for-All" Commission and the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Francisco J. Elizalde and POC president Celso L. Dayrit will be the speakers during a program after the run sponsored by Nestlé Phils., Speedo, Enervon, Uniar, McDonald's and Accel.

Provincial champs see action

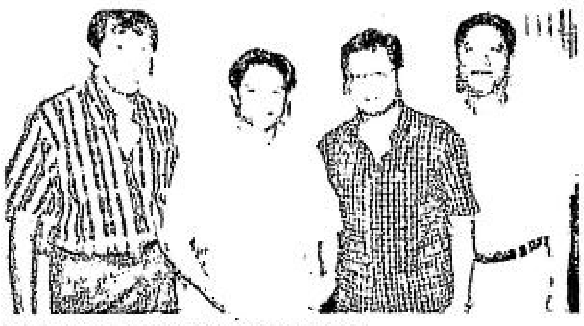
PROVINCIAL sabong champions strut their stuff when the "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" begins 10 a.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Derby host Rolly Ligon said contenders include Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga, current World Slasher champ Rey Briones of Masbate, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino and ASF Group of Laguna, Commissioner Jun Sevilla, Jun Manguera and Dicky Lim of Batangas, William Co of Rizal, Dong Lacson of Iloilo, Boy Marzo of Parañaque, Nelson Uy of Rizal, Joe Mojeno of Negros and Benny Limjoco of Bulacan.

JV Ongpin Cup at San Lazaro

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Commission caps its weeklong activities tomorrow with another card highlighted by the 2003 J.V. Ongpin Cup, second leg of the Triple Crown Championship Series. Eight top-caliber 3-year-olds take center stage tomorrow afternoon at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite as they compete in the event, named in honor of the late Finance Secretary Jaime V. Ongpin for his contribution in restructuring race betting taxes in the 1980s. Heading the hunt for the coveted title is first leg (Cojuangco Cup) winner West Bound.

'Battle of Champs' at Big Dome

A ONE-DAY, four-cock derby under the aegis of the National Cockers Association will be held on Monday at the Araneta Coliseum. Entries to the derby, hosted by NCA president Ito Ynares and council member Louie Cua, include Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Roger Roberts, Danding Cojuangco, Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, World Slasher co-champion Golden Circle I of Matt Bitanga, Mario Villamor, Ram Lopez, Chuck Berry and Rudy Salud.

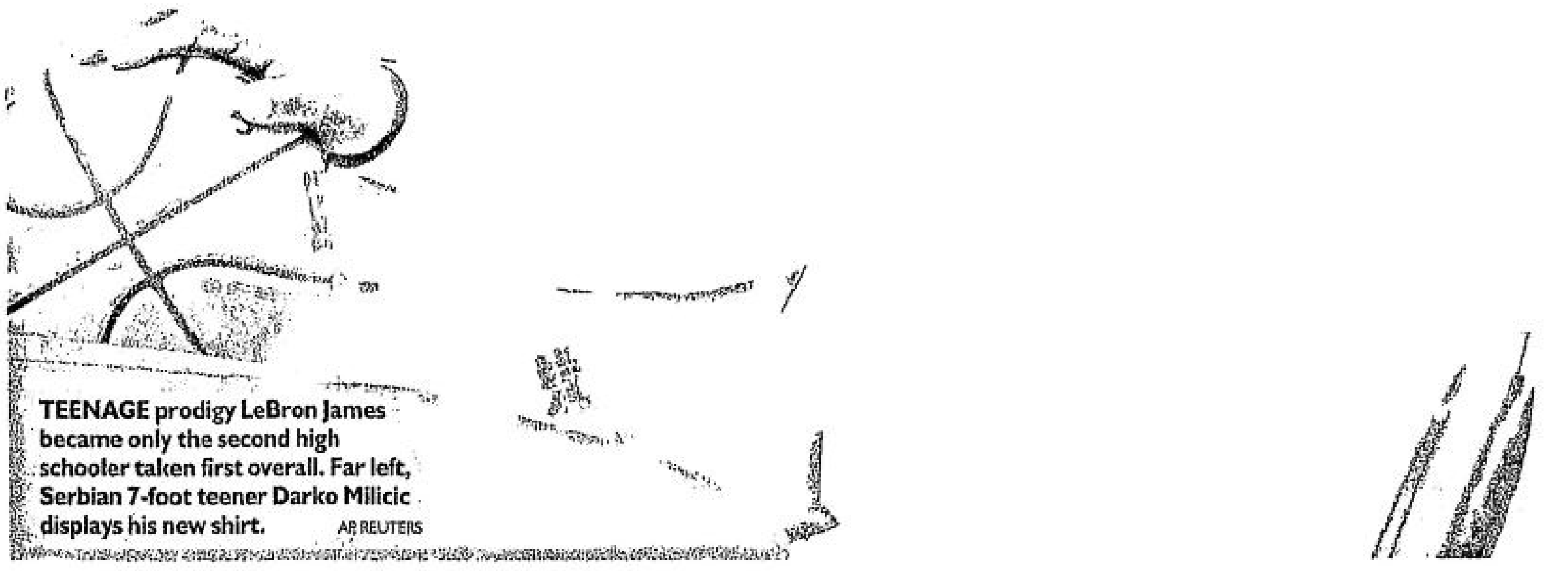


MAYOR AND THE CHAMP

Paba flyweight champion Rolly Lunas (2nd from left) with Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos. With them are boxing promoter Jun Sarreal (left) and Bing Hoyumpa. Lunas will defend his title on Aug. 8 against Thai Deeden Kengkaroon.

A job for James

NBA's No.1 draftee expected to carry Cavaliers on his shoulders



TEENAGE prodigy LeBron James became only the second high schooler taken first overall. Far left, Serbian 7-foot teener Darko Milicic displays his new shirt. AP, REUTERS

NEW YORK—LeBron James was chosen No. 1 in the NBA draft Thursday and strode onstage wearing an all-white suit, appropriate garb for a player expected to be the savior of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

An NBA draft that began with the 18-year-old James, the high school phenom from Akron, Ohio, ended with a record 21 international players being chosen in the two rounds. A record nine global picks were chosen in the first round.

High school prodigy James went first overall to Cleveland, his 90 million-dollar shoe deal and televised prep games already preparing him for life in the NBA before he even suited up.

James, whose stellar youth career featured televised games and dueling sponsor deals, became only the second high schooler taken first overall, following Washington's 2001 choice of Kwame Brown, who has disappointed.

But James, who averaged 31.6 points and 9.6 rebounds a game this season has little hope of lifting the woeful Cavaliers, 17-65 last season.

"It has been a lifelong dream," James said. "All the work I put in has paid off. Just come to Cleveland and you will see it lit up like Las Vegas." Serbian 7-foot teener Darko Milicic went second to Detroit, starting a trend of worldwide talent that made up more than one of every three of the 58 total selections.

The total non-United States picks surpassed last year's record 17.

"I think some of these teams made a mistake, said Polish center Maciej Lampe, who was projected as a lottery pick but fell all the way to No. 30--the first pick of the second round—where he was selected by the New York Knicks.

Nobody was accusing the Cavs of making a mistake with their selection of James.

The most heralded high school player of a generation, James is considered a can't-miss prospect with the skills of a guard, the body of a forward and the potential of a superstar.

"I'm one of the highest publicized players in the country right now, and I haven't even played one game of basketball in the NBA. I know I'm a marked man," James said.

Carmelo Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national championship, was chosen third by the Denver Nuggets—capping the drama-less first 15 minutes.

AFP

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS

From page A28

1. True
2. The same as the first arrow's
3. Martina Navratilova
4. 14 (However, if a player starts a round with less than 14 clubs, he or she may add clubs during the round as long as the pace of play is not affected.)
5. random order
6. Making player substitutions
7. 55 (Why? Like other normal human beings, basketball officials have only five fingers on each hand with which to report jersey numbers to the scorer.)

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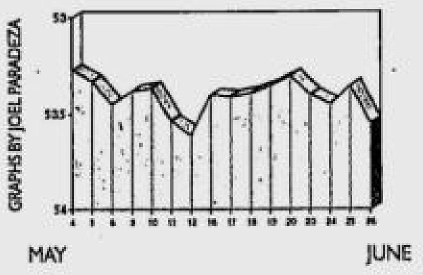
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Deutsche Telecom selling stake in Globe

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.64 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 27, 2003

¥ 119.76 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 27, 2003

GOLD: $343.50-344.00

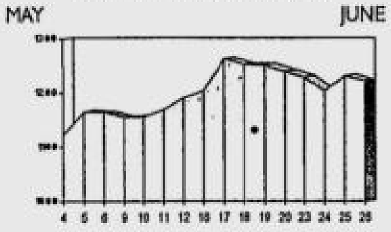
per ounce Hong Kong, June 27, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise 1.2%

SHARE prices closed 1.2 percent higher on Friday following the upturn on Wall Street overnight and led by further gains in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

They said investors appeared to be taking positions in anticipation of faster economic growth and stronger corporate earnings in the second half.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 14.69 points to 1,236.60 having traded between 1,225.93 and 1,237.27.

"We took our cue from Wall Street," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities, citing the rise of PLDT's shares following gains in the company's American Depository Receipts overnight.

"We could be seeing some window-dressing but we have to wait for what will happen on Monday to confirm this," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

Volume fell to 301.98 million shares worth P478.97 million from 470.43 million shares worth P637.89 million on Thursday.

PLDT rose P10 to P565 while SM Prime Holdings gained 20 centavos to P6.10.

San Miguel Corp. saw its "B" shares rise by 50 centavos to P63 while its "A" shares remained unchanged at P54.50.

Globe Telecom gained P5 to P615 while Ayala Land Inc. rose 10 centavos to P6.

AFP

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEBT-STRAPPED Deutsche Telekom of Germany has asked Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd. to buy its 24.8-percent stake in Globe Telecom.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Ayala said DeTeAsia Holding GmbH—the unit holding Deutsche Telekom's stake in Globe—had offered to sell all of its shares.

While no offer price has been disclosed, Deutsche's 24.8-percent holding is worth about P23 billion ($427 million) at Globe's current market capitalization.

In an interview, Ayala managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said SingTel and Ayala would discuss whether to exercise their right of first refusal and make a decision within the next 45 days.

Jomar Lacson, an analyst at independent financial research firm TeamResearch, estimated that Ayala and SingTel would have to jointly shell out $500-$600 million to buy out the German firm's shares in Globe Telecom.

Ayala owns 32.7 percent while SingTel controls 29.1 percent of Globe.

Asked whether getting another strategic partner to take the place of Deutsche instead of taking up the stake themselves was an option, Manotok said: "We're looking at all angles."

"It will have to be a decision by both Ayala and SingTel. We've got to look at several factors," he said.

Shares of Globe Telecom closed P5 higher yesterday at P615 per share on news of Deutsche Telekom's offer.

Lacson said the planned pullout did not come as a surprise, citing Deutsche Telekom heavy losses in Europe.

"It has been divesting its investments in Asia, such as in Malaysia," Lacson said. "It paid a high price for its 3G venture in Europe."

Lacson said SingTel was in a better position to take up the stake, although Ayala was not likely to allow itself to be sidelined.

"Most likely it will want to buy the shares because Globe is a good investment. On the other hand, Ayala will be strained because it will have to pay its debts. It might have to borrow to finance it," he said.

Overall, Lacson said it would be good for Globe if more of the shares were to be sold to the public.

George Ty, Mirant to buy Lopez group's power unit for ₱2.3B

By Elena R.. Torrijos

GLOBAL Business Holdings Inc. and First Metro Investment Corp., both units of the Metrobank group of taipan George Ty, yesterday said that together with Mirant Toledo Holdings, they would acquire the entire equity interests of the Lopez group in Panay Power Corp. for P2.329 billion.

Panay Power, which currently operates a 72-megawatt power generation company on the island of Panay, is being sold by Lopez firms First Generation Holdings Corp., First Private Corp. and Panay Electric Co.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FMIC and GBHI said the acquisition of Panay Power in partnership with Mirant was "to pursue business opportunities in power generation in the Visayas region."

The Metrobank units said the transaction was expected to be signed within the week subject to prior approvals required.

Following the disclosure, the Philippine Stock Exchange said that trading of publicly listed GBH would be suspended until the terms and conditions of the transaction were actually disclosed.

In an interview, Francis Sebastian of FMIC said the two companies' total stake in Panay Power would amount to 35 percent with Mirant Toledo holding the balance.

Mirant would be in charge of operating the facility. Mirant Philippines is the biggest private power-generating company in the country. Its parent company is based in the United States.

The sale of Panay Power is seen to help First Philippine Holdings Corp., the holding company for the power-generating assets of the Lopez family, pay $60 million in principal debt due on June 30.

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported that FPHC had promised its creditor-banks that it was working on raising $35 million and roughly P1 billion from the "sale of an asset." FPHC also said it was ironing out a $30-million borrowing from a foreign financial institution.

$300-M solar cell factory to rise in Laguna Technopark

By Ronnel W. Domingo

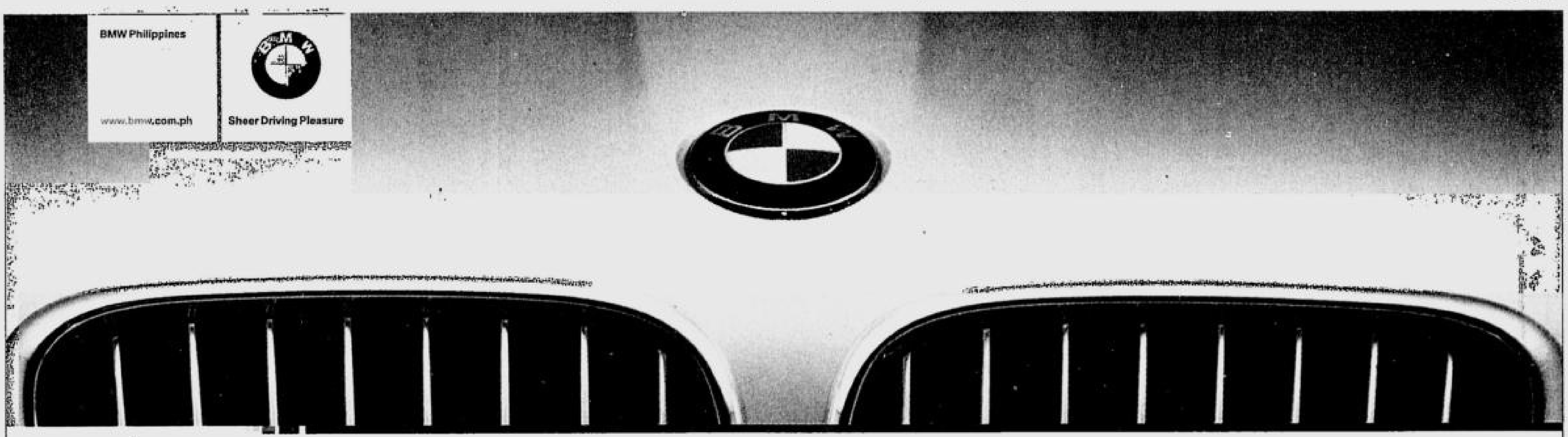
THE ESTABLISHMENT of a $300-million solar cell factory at the Laguna Technopark would make the country a solar wafer manufacturing hub and boost the development of the domestic solar power industry, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said.

Perez said SunPower Philippines, which will build the plant, intends to produce solar cells that are needed to build solar panels or solar modules for conversion of sunlight to electrical energy.

The panels, in turn, are major components of solar home systems that are usually installed in areas not connected to the main electricity grids and serve as power sources.

"One of the major obstacles in the development of solar-based technologies is the cost of imported materials due to the absence of locally manufactured products," he said. "Oper-

$300-M/ B3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Excise Tax - the Senate Bill will increase prices further

The well-publicised Senate version of the Excise Tax bill will result in **higher**, not lower, retail prices for our cars. While we do not know the full impact of the excise taxes (as the final version of the Excise Tax bill for our industry still has to be passed), our price simulations reflect higher prices – some quite substantially so. Our authorised BMW dealers have this price simulation, and they will be happy to talk you through it.

The bottom line is that, based on the above two points, and also the fact that our inventories are limited, the best time to purchase is **now**. The good news is that our BMW Flex Finance and other programs are still available to you so that you can engineer a flexible financing plan.

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Please take your cheat

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

MAYBE you think the issue on cement dumping, which by the way mostly comes from Meteor Garden, este, Taiwan, is over and done with—finally.

I regret to say that, just like television soap, the three-year running, multibillion-peso issue is only over and done with at long last!

And that is so because Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas showed awesome muscle control ... I mean, willpower ... on the cement dumping issue.

He insisted on slapping the cement importers. I mean, he still slapped a P20-per-bag tariff on imported cement, despite all the dirty tactics thrown at him by his enemies.

For Mar recently got the legal ammo from the Court of Appeals. It ruled that the DTI head, actually, in special cases, has the last say on whether or not to impose tariff.

That's why this time, we take our hat and other sensitive clothing items off to Mar, whether he likes it or not.

* * *

ACTUALLY, when he first decided to fight cement dumping more than two years ago, Mar only exercised the authority of the DTI head under the law.

That law is RA 8800, otherwise known as the Anti-Asthma And Other Paroxysmal Allergy Law of 1953 With Multiple Amendments. No, that's not it.

That is the law, actually, which gives the DTI head authority to protect the locals against cheating in the guise of trade liberalization under the new world order WTO.

The first big test case, as you all know, is precisely all that cement dumping coming mainly from the land of Dou Ming Shi.

In 2001, when cement dumping already cornered 35 percent of the Metro Manila market, local cement factories were closing down, a lot of jobs going pffft.

Mar probably thought it was enough reason to use his authority for a little defensive move. Suspiciously, the Tariff Commission said, "no way."

Even more suspiciously, the Department of Justice agreed with the Tariff Commission. The DOJ was then headed by Laar ... este, Nani Perez.

* * *

STILL, everybody already knew that nobody really gained from cement dumping, except a few cement-importing worms.

Do the math, okay! Those worms paid only P54 a bag for the dumped cement. They then sell it here at P137 to P150 a bag.

Their prices were just slightly lower than the price of local cement. Moreover, the DTI doubted if those worms even paid for the correct income tax assessment.

Anyway, aside from only a few worms benefiting from the cement dumping, it hurt a lot of people. When cement factories closed down, thousands lost their jobs.

To think, our cement factories are world class. Years ago, the companies invested more than $2 billion to upgrade their facilities and follow strict world standards.

Look, in a cement factory in Cebu, which is smokeless, from what I heard, there is a pond nearby where geese and ducks abound. That kind of world class!

* * *

ECHOING the voice of Kuya Eddie's administration, certain economists in this cute administration say that globalization is here, and it is here to stay. And so that's it.

But under Kuya Eddie, we even volunteered to cut tariff to zero. China, in comparison, waited for 20 years before joining the WTO. It came in ... well, prepared.

In business, no wonder, some groups are starting to rethink the so-called trade liberalization. This animal is now forcing a lot of our local industries to go bankrupt.

Just listen to Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz in his talk at the AIM. Stiglitz said that our country is a NET loser in the globalization game.

See, that means there are NET winners. Guess what, they are only the richest countries in the world. Fair enough.

* * *

NOW, trade liberalization is one thing; cheating in the guise of trade liberalization is another.

For on top of the problems of the locals coming from trade liberalization, the locals must face up to cheating.

Sadly, all that cheating even gets help from the seat of power!

And so today we buy stupid TV shows from Taiwan. That territory's government returns the favor, by simply imposing a 104-percent tariff on certain imported cement.

Know what—that punitive tariff applies only on cement EXCLUSIVELY from the Philippines. Such out-and-out cheating! Luckily, we cannot even do anything about it.

* * *

SOME foreign, er, "consultants" who work for the ERC (i.e. highly paid guys with brains made of soft lahar) just came up with two new pricing schemes for electricity.

The ERC is the Energy Regulatory Commission. It is the body which dictates whether or not my mother will call me up to complain about her high electric bill.

At first glance, the schemes of the foreign consultants look like the ERC will finally make my mother happy. They seem ... well, "consumer-friendly."

But take a long, hard look, and you will see that the schemes actually allow some automatic increases in electricity rates.

One of them is called the GRAM. It has nothing to do with weight unit or that old military reform movement. It stands for "generation rate adjustment mechanism."

From what I gathered, a number of electricity distributors all over the country, who I suppose know their business only too well, are suspicious of the GRAM.

And it's not just because the whachamacallit was actually prescribed by ERC consultants identified with the US-funded lobby group called Agile. *Na naman?*

* * *

LATELY, this Agile, or short for "Accelerated Growth, Investments and Liberalization with Equity," is becoming like a boil. It pops up in the strangest places.

It is the same group which conceived the GRAM in place of the PPA, or the purchased power adjustment. They are basically the same rotten banana.

All right, there is a slight variation. The PPA enables distributors to recover their cost in a month. The GRAM delays it by 180 days. This means half a year, okay!

* * *

AND the second pricing scheme is called the ICERA, or "incremental currency exchange rate adjustment."

But deep down in your heart, do you really really think that whoever comes up with such terms must be shot or just be buried alive?

Anyway, this is the first time in the history of mankind that any country should see such a strange creature. I am not kidding, we are the guinea pig for the formula.

* * *

NOW industry experts said both GRAM and ICERA can fool us. We may think that electricity rates can become cheap.

Admittedly, it will become cheap, but only for six months. And then the sting comes into play. We then pay for additional charges tacked into the "deferred costs."

For half a year, as I said, or six months, distributors cannot recover their costs. So how do they recover the cost of money. In six months, that's a lot of interest cost.

Easy, the foreign consultants of the ERC say, distributors simply charge us interest of up to 12 percent (the going rate) after those six months. Wonderful!

And what if interest rates go up to more than 12 percent? In this country, nothing is impossible.

Let me see if I get this right—so even if I pay my electric bills on time, after six months, I must pay interest charges on something I have nothing to do with? Wow!

CURRENCIES

June 27, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.875503	1.000000	53.440000
Japan	Yen	0.007335	0.008378	0.447700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454386	1.661200	88.774500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112271	0.128236	6.852900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647802	0.739919	39.541300
Canada	Dollar	0.645890	0.737735	39.424600
Singapore	Dollar	0.498863	0.569801	30.450200
Australia	Dollar	0.582310	0.665115	35.543700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.322414	2.652661	141.758200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.233468	0.266667	14.250700
Brunei	Dollar	0.497445	0.568182	30.363600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021021	0.024010	1.283100
UAE	Dirham	0.238375	0.272272	14.550200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.142200	61.039200
Argentina	Peso	0.314364	0.359066	19.188500
Brazil	Real	0.302732	0.345781	18.478500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134668	0.153818	8.220000
India	Rupee	0.018840	0.021519	1.150000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.230426	0.263193	14.065000
Mexico	New Peso	0.083724	0.095630	5.110500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509903	0.582411	31.124000
Norway	Kroner	0.120763	0.137935	7.371200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015186	0.017346	0.927000
South Africa	Rand	0.115502	0.131926	7.050100
Korea	Won	0.000738	0.000843	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.109219	0.124750	6.666600
Syria	Pound	0.020846	0.023810	1.272400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025377	0.028986	1.549000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000549	0.000627	0.033500

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	18.5	19.5	323,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	488,300
China Banking Corp.	725	725	725	725	7,030
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33	32	32	94,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	30	810,000
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.5	15,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	27.5	28	7,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11	11	11	11	5,600
Security Bank Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.25	35,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1480	1450	1480	2,530
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	70,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1080	1060	1080	950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	28,100
Diversified Fin. Network	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.74	2,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	615	610	615	58,470
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	890,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.05	0.043	0.047	18,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.44	5,070,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	560	565	560	565	187,530
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	4,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.5	10.5	10	10.25	511,400
Manila Electric Co. B	15.25	15.25	15	15	714,600
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2	2	1,548,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	25,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	5,480,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	757,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	910,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	90,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	310,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	31	94,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	442,300
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	67,100
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	752,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	75,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.18	0.18	370,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.75	4.8	1,867,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	25,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.68	56,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	650,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	15,830,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	590,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	780,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13	13.25	12.75	12.75	1,134,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.79	0.79	310,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,030,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	17,340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.33	53,970,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	2,720,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	16,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	12,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	1	0.95	1	160,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	67,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,270,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	209,300
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.56	9,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,100,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	441,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	14,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	550	550	550	550	1,730
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	4,147,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	170,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	2,130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.185	0.165	0.185	9,270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.24	14,560,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	13,050,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	320,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.155	0.155	0.14	0.14	680,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	26,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	6,631,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	410,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	9,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	100,000

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FOR NAPOCOR

Gov't to issue $500M in bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the national government would borrow $500 million from overseas markets for National Power Corp., which recently pulled out its $500-million bond issue due to the big spread sought by investors.

The BSP said it was expecting the national government to file the application with the Monetary Board soon for the planned borrowing.

"I believe the national government will be asking for our approval soon. I just don't know when exactly," assured BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

A source in the Department of Finance said the government preferred issuing 10-year bonds. He added the government had already asked investment banks to submit their offers to handle the bond float.

The BSP stressed that the government had to make the borrowing to meet Napocor's urgent need for funds to pay maturing obligations, and not to beef up the country's dollar reserves.

The BSP statement was made to allay fears that Napocor might source its funding requirements locally and thus, put pressure on the country's dollar reserves and weaken the peso.

The gross international reserves were expected to hit $15 billion.

Napocor decided to scrap its $500-million global bond issue due to the lukewarm reception by investors who demanded to be paid a spread of 1.25 points over comparative rate on national government borrowings. *With a report from Elena R. Torrijos*

RP opposes removal of 'nuisance' tariffs

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT trade negotiators are opposing moves in the ongoing world trade talks in Geneva, Switzerland, to eliminate "nuisance" tariffs—or those 5 percent and below.

They said that tariffs played a significant role in protecting local industries and in raising revenue for the government.

Developed countries, such as the United States, are proposing to bring down to zero all tariffs presently at 5 percent and below in the belief they just disrupt trade without giving much benefit to exporting countries.

"As far as rich countries are concerned, low tariffs are a nuisance and should therefore be eliminated, but to us these are still important," said Thomas Aquino, Trade and Industry Undersecretary for international trade.

Aquino said the revenue raised from the imposition of these 5 percent and below tariffs contributed substantially in keeping the fiscal gap within the ceiling.

He said the government was also opposing moves to protect local producers of milk products, who would be affected by the elimination of the so-called nuisance tariffs.

$300-M solar cell . . .

From page B1

ations of the facility will bring down costs and eventually make renewable energy sources like solar power more affordable."

The official added that if SunPower would be selling at discounted prices, this would further facilitate the development of the downstream market for solar-based technologies.

He said the use of such technologies for electrification had progressively improved over the last few years.

Department of Energy records showed that in 2001, there were 5,120 solar home systems installed—of which 4,619 were for electricity, 433 for heating water and 68 for drying crops.

In a related development, Korea Electric Power Corp.'s (Kepco) local unit signed on Thursday a memorandum of agreement with the DOE to provide electricity to 200 remote barangays in the Visayas—a project that will cost about P200 million.

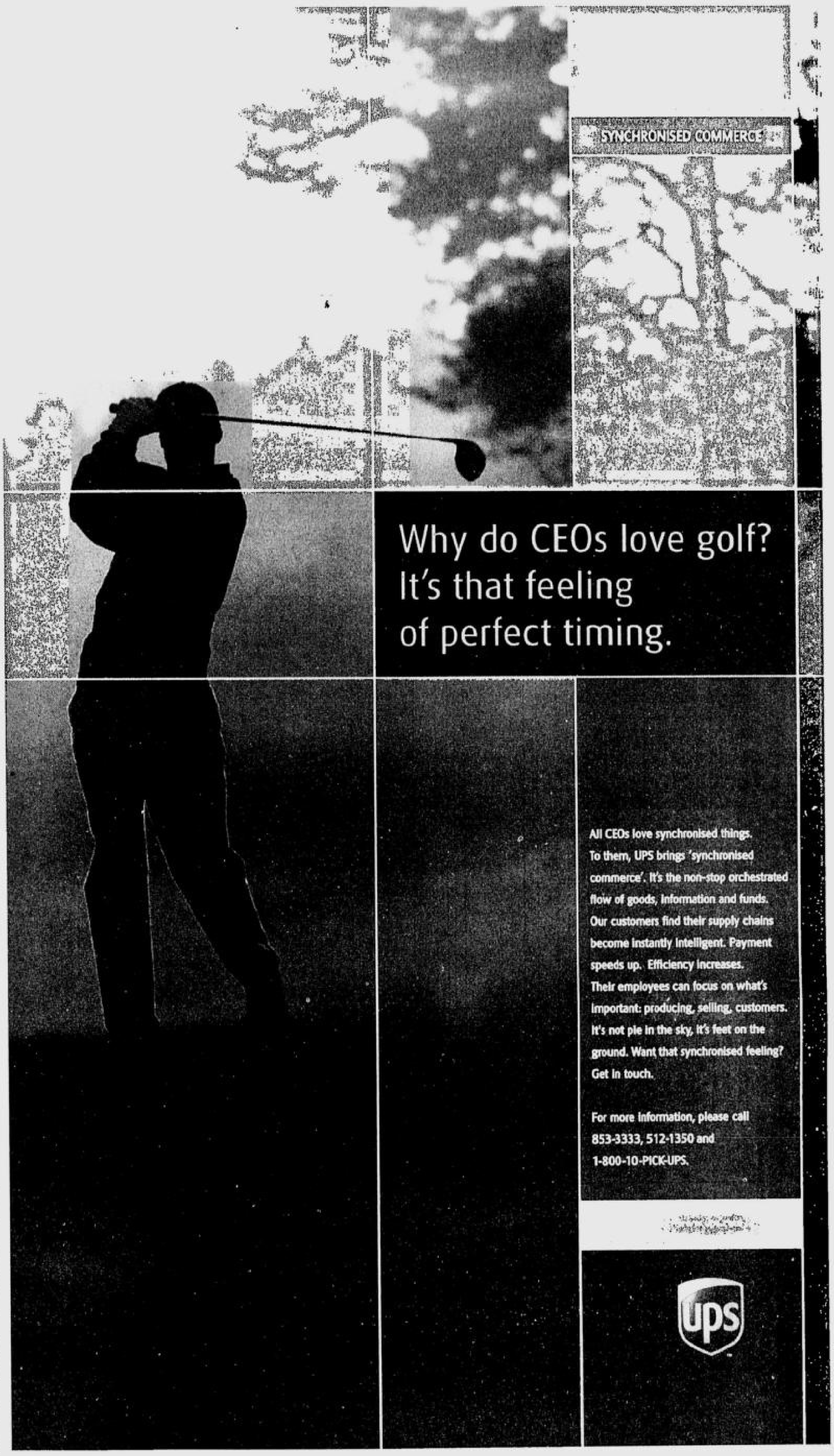
During the signing ceremony, Perez said Kepco Philippines' commitment was made under the Adopt-a-Barangay scheme of the "O-Ilaw" rural electrification program.

He said the scheme made it possible to energize far-flung areas without any cost to the government or beneficiaries.

DOE records show that the 200 barangays to be energized are in addition to the 60 barangays in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro that Kepco had previously sponsored.

Most of the new beneficiaries are in the provinces of Capiz, Iloilo, Aklan, Antique, Cebu and Siquijor.

Kepco leads the consortium that operates the 1,200-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Ilijan, Batangas, as well as the 750-MW facility in Pililla, Rizal.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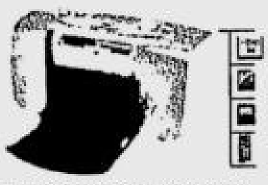

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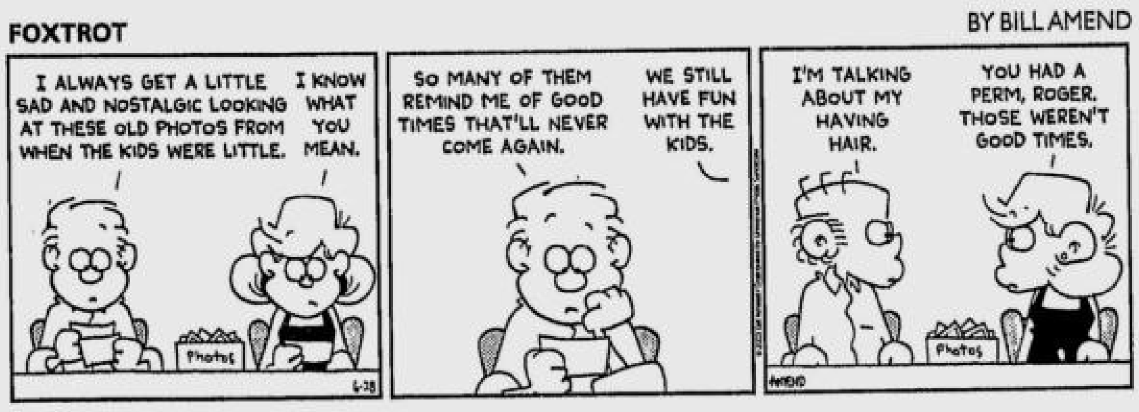
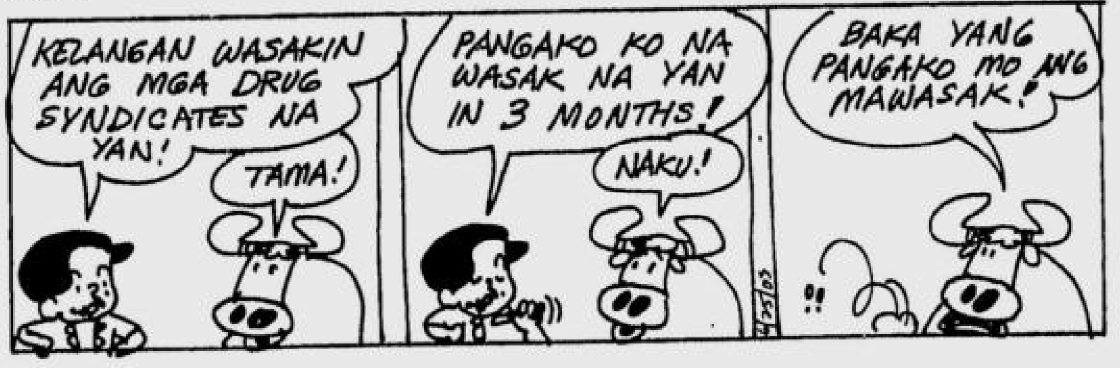
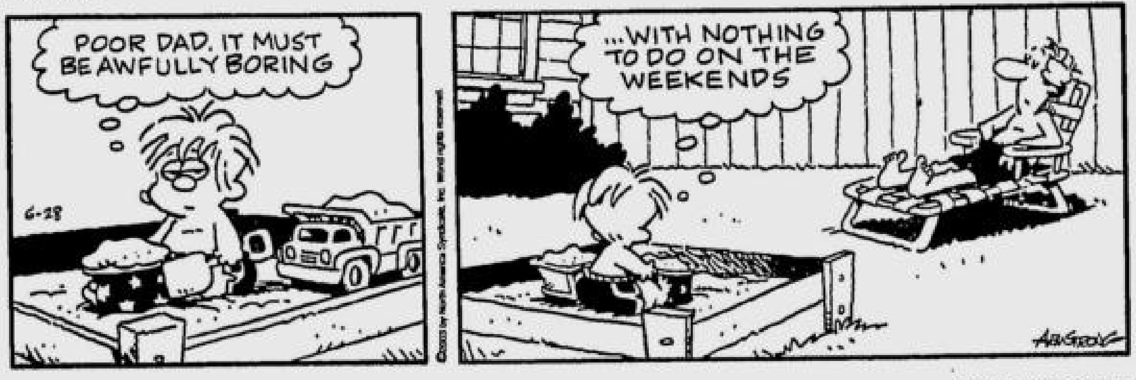
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I ALWAYS GET A LITTLE SAD AND NOSTALGIC LOOKING AT THESE OLD PHOTOS FROM WHEN THE KIDS WERE LITTLE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
Photos
6-28
SO MANY OF THEM REMIND ME OF GOOD TIMES THAT'LL NEVER COME AGAIN.
WE STILL HAVE FUN WITH THE KIDS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY HAVING HAIR.
YOU HAD A PERM, ROGER. THOSE WEREN'T GOOD TIMES.
Photos
AMEND

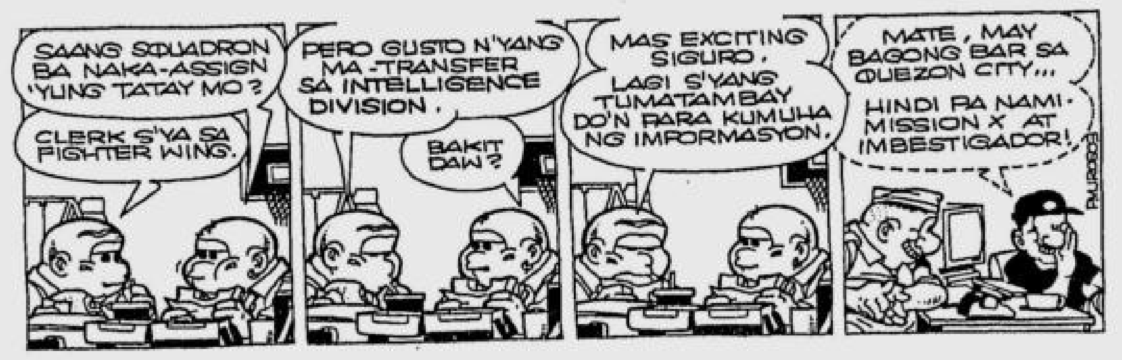
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN WASAKIN ANG MGA DRUG SYNDICATES NA YAN!
TAMA!
PANGAKO KO NA WASAK NA YAN IN 3 MONTHS!
NAKU!
BAKA YANG PANGAKO MO ANG MAWASAK!
!!

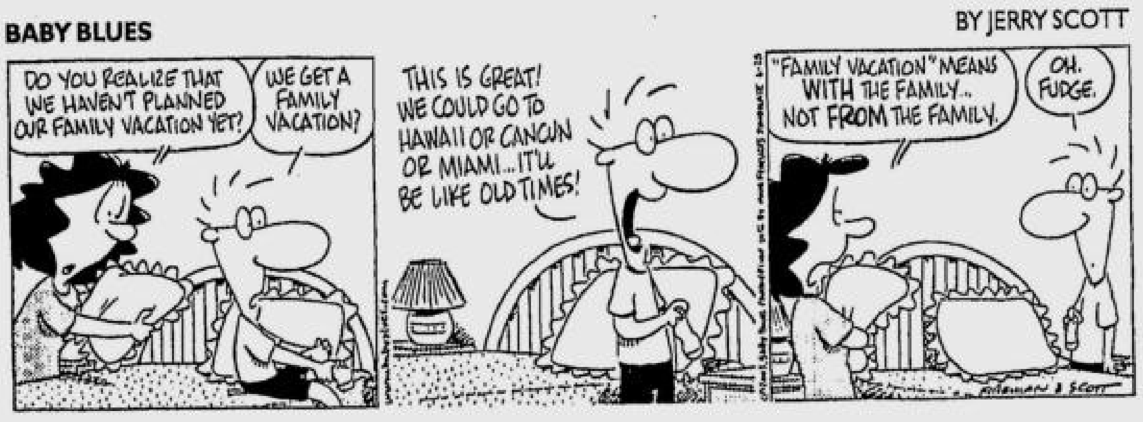
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


POOR DAD. IT MUST BE AWFULLY BORING
6-28
...WITH NOTHING TO DO ON THE WEEKENDS
ARMSTRONG

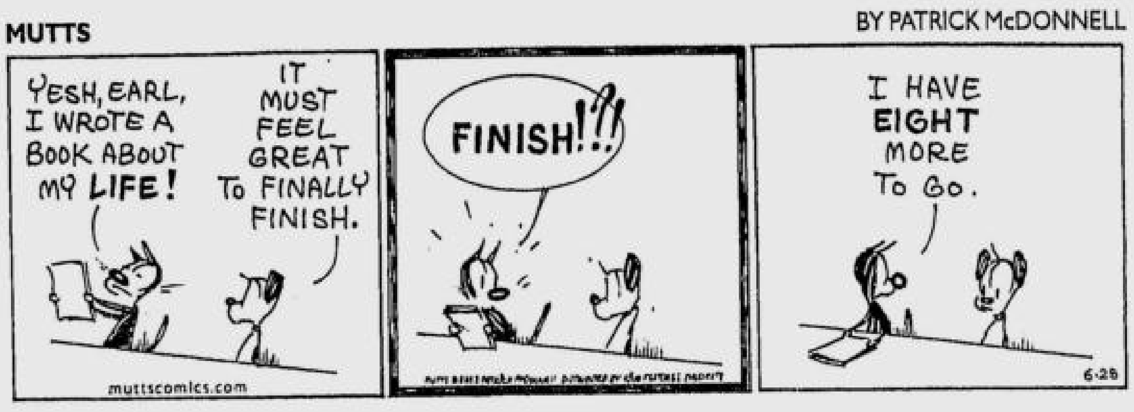
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SAANG SQUADRON BA NAKA-ASSIGN 'YUNG TATAY MO?
CLERK S'YA SA FIGHTER WING.
PERO GUSTO N'YANG MA-TRANSFER SA INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.
BAKIT DAW?
MAS EXCITING SIGURO. LAGI S'YANG TUMATAMBAY DO'N PARA KUMUHA NG IMPORMASYON.
MATE, MAY BAGONG BAR SA QUEZON CITY...
HINDI PA NAMI-MISSION X AT IMBESTIGADOR!
PMJR2003

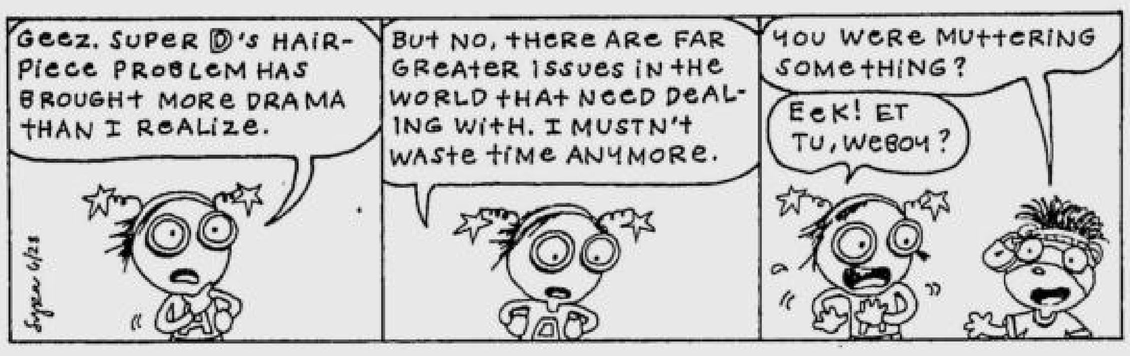
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DO YOU REALIZE THAT WE HAVEN'T PLANNED OUR FAMILY VACATION YET?
WE GET A FAMILY VACATION?
THIS IS GREAT! WE COULD GO TO HAWAII OR CANCUN OR MIAMI...IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES!
"FAMILY VACATION" MEANS WITH THE FAMILY... NOT FROM THE FAMILY.
OH. FUDGE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

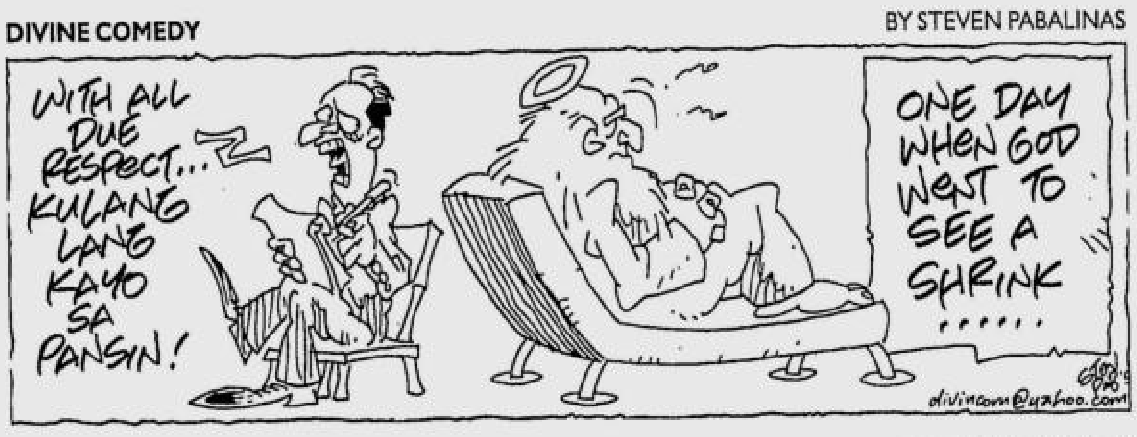
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YESH, EARL, I WROTE A BOOK ABOUT MY LIFE!
IT MUST FEEL GREAT TO FINALLY FINISH.
muttscomics.com
FINISH!?!
I HAVE EIGHT MORE TO GO.
6-28

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Geez. Super D's hair-piece problem has brought more drama than I realize.
But no, there are far greater issues in the world that need dealing with. I mustn't waste time anymore.
You were muttering something?
Eek! Et tu, Weboy?
Lyra 6/28

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WITH ALL DUE RESPECT... KULANG LANG KAYO SA PANSIN!
ONE DAY WHEN GOD WENT TO SEE A SHRINK ......
divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are naturally entertaining, humorous and fascinating. Your earthy, human approach appeals to others. In turn, you need their appreciation. You can be patient, waiting for what you want, but at other times, you like to shock. You are a natural leader. Important choices await you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Kathy Bates, actress; Mel Brooks, writer/director; John Cusack, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to enjoy discussions with siblings and relatives. You will also delight in shopping, buying and selling, or taking a short trip.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will be pleased with your purchases today. Not only is spending money a pleasure—earning it can be enjoyable as well. All financial negotiations favor you now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel warm and affectionate to others now. In part, this is because people find you witty and clever today. Naturally, this pleases you and makes you even more enthusiastic!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You find it easy to be sympathetic to the misfortunes of others today. It certainly puts your own problems in perspective. For this, you are grateful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): All your exchanges with friends or groups are pleasant and amiable today. You can't go wrong. Others enjoy your company, and in a similar way, you enjoy the company of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's easy to impress important people today. Your logic, your fine mind and most of all your willingness to be of help makes others respect you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're thrilled about new theories, philosophies and religious ideas today. Your mind is alive with fresh ways of thinking and looking at life. New revelations excite you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Quite possibly, a gift could come your way today. Certainly, some kind of advantage or boon is given to you through someone else. Just say "thank you."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Recent tension with partners and close friends can be easily smoothed over today. Whatever negative thoughts might linger are best left unsaid. Time heals all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): New ideas about how to improve your health intrigue you now. Listen to your own thoughts. It's important to respect and take care of your body. It's the only one you've got.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Love, romance, parties, entertaining activities, playful times with children and sports are just some of the things that will please you today. You want to have a good time!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good time to take up some course of action that involves physical activity. You might want to join a gym or take a class that encourages physical workouts. You want to turn over a new leaf.

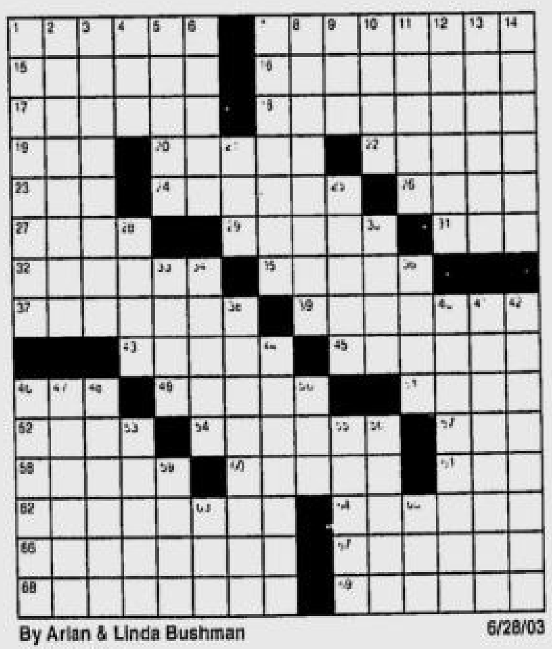
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Unassertive
7 Fifty-fifty chance
15 Ladder toter, perhaps
16 Differentiate
17 Catlike
18 French pancake place
19 Chill
20 1983 Mr. T flick
22 1983 Indy 500 winner
23 Utmost
24 Visit
26 Pipe part
27 Pupil setting
29 Outfit
31 Start-up buttons
32 Askew
35 The South
37 Cream-filled pastries
39 Threatened
43 Made an effort
45 Bun seed
46 LXX x X
49 Songwriter Greenwich
51 Piccadilly Circus statue
52 She in Cherbourg
54 Andes beasts
57 Oft-used abbr.
58 Africa's largest city
60 Reject with distain
61 Old-time interjection
62 Galosh
64 __ of honor
66 Titan of the past
67 Set in proper position
68 Contestants
69 Niche

DOWN

1 Clear-cut
2 Emotionally exciting
3 Mountain material?
4 Wire-service letters
5 Tears
6 Vertical
7 Got away
8 To the letter
9 Tours season
10 Snoozes
11 Bids first
12 Risk it
13 Compulsive
14 Cooks in vapors
21 Machine part
25 Monkey suits
28 ERA, e.g.
30 Long (for)
33 Irish homeland
34 Dental instrument
36 Creature comforts
38 Betrays one's cause
40 Happy-go-lucky
41 Spock's lack
42 Downward passages
44 Nottingham nappies
46 Read spy reports
47 Cliff of "Cheers"
48 Grisham novel, with "The"
50 Outback nester
53 Baseball bobble
55 Knight's protection
56 Trapper's device
59 Peak in Thessaly
63 Chinese dynasty
65 Spasmodic muscular contraction



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
6/28/03

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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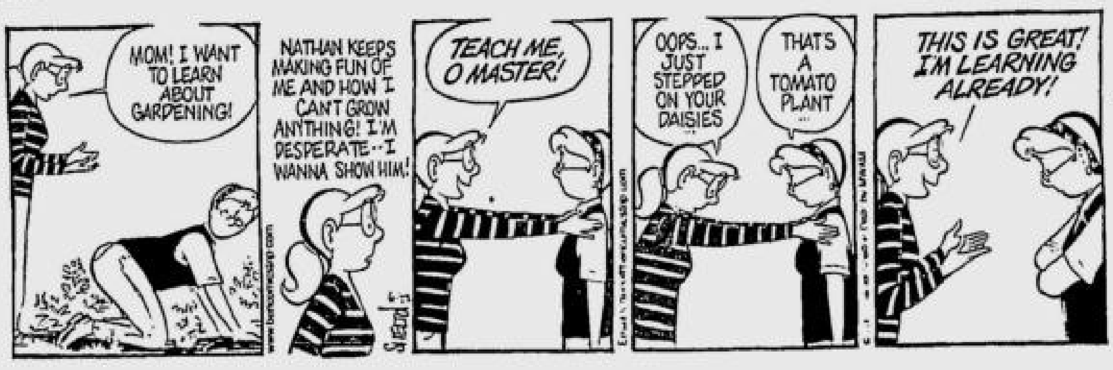
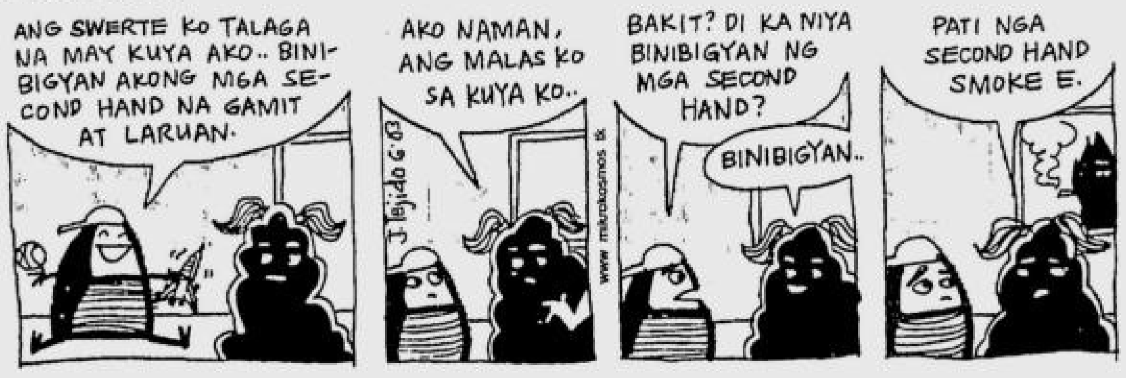
6/28/03

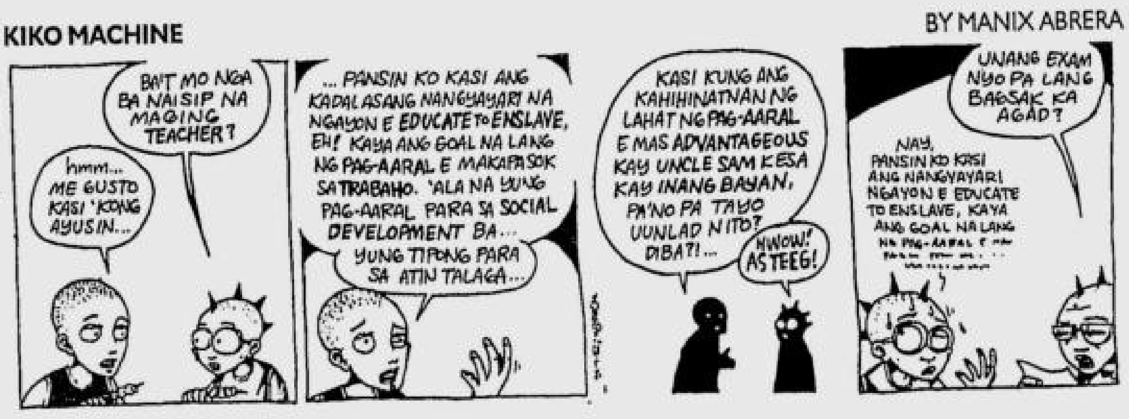
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOM! I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT GARDENING!
NATHAN KEEPS MAKING FUN OF ME AND HOW I CAN'T GROW ANYTHING! I'M DESPERATE--I WANNA SHOW HIM!
TEACH ME, O MASTER!
OOPS... I JUST STEPPED ON YOUR DAISIES
THAT'S A TOMATO PLANT ...
THIS IS GREAT! I'M LEARNING ALREADY!

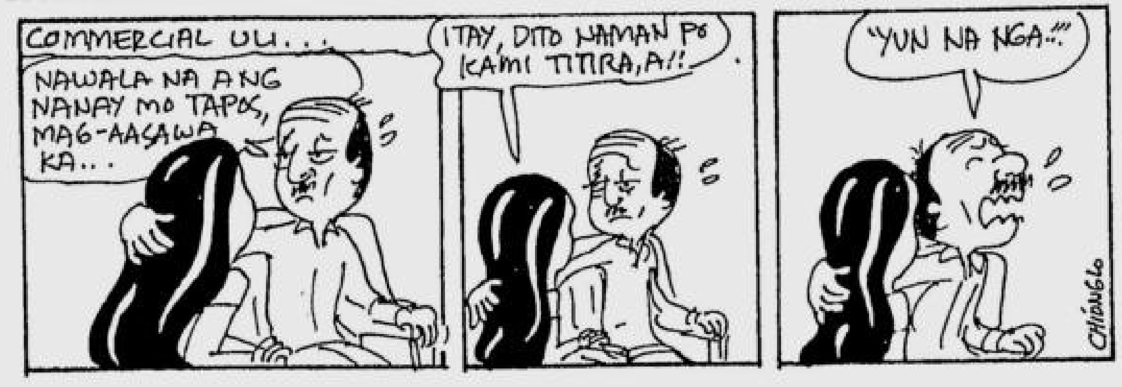
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SWERTE KO TALAGA NA MAY KUYA AKO.. BINIBIGYAN AKONG MGA SECOND HAND NA GAMIT AT LARUAN.
AKO NAMAN, ANG MALAS KO SA KUYA KO..
J Tejido 6.03
www mikrokosmos tk
BAKIT? DI KA NIYA BINIBIGYAN NG MGA SECOND HAND?
BINIBIGYAN..
PATI NGA SECOND HAND SMOKE E.

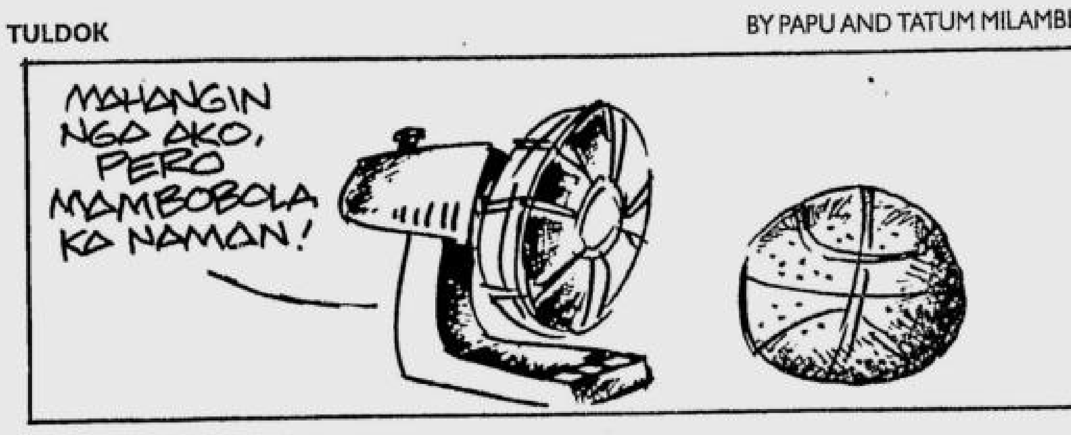
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T MO NGA BA NAISIP NA MAGING TEACHER?
hmm... ME GUSTO KASI 'KONG AYUSIN...
... PANSIN KO KASI ANG KADALASANG NANGYAYARI NA NGAYON E EDUCATE TO ENSLAVE, EH! KAYA ANG GOAL NA LANG NG PAG-AARAL E MAKAPASOK SA TRABAHO. 'ALA NA YUNG PAG-AARAL PARA SA SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BA...
YUNG TIPONG PARA SA ATIN TALAGA...
KASI KUNG ANG KAHIHINATNAN NG LAHAT NG PAG-AARAL E MAS ADVANTAGEOUS KAY UNCLE SAM KESA KAY INANG BAYAN, PA'NO PA TAYO UUNLAD NITO? DIBA?!...
WWOW! ASTEEG!
UNANG EXAM NYO PA LANG BAGSAK KA AGAD?
NAY, PANSIN KO KASI ANG NANGYAYARI NGAYON E EDUCATE TO ENSLAVE, KAYA ANG GOAL NA LANG NG PAG-AARAL E

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


COMMERCIAL ULI...
NAWALA NA ANG NANAY MO TAPOS, MAG-AASAWA KA...
ITAY, DITO NAMAN PO KAMI TITIRA, A!!
"YUN NA NGA!!"
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAHANGIN NGA AKO, PERO MAMBOBOLA KA NAMAN!

EU warns of trade penalties against US goods

WASHINGTON—Europe's top trade official warned the Bush administration that the European Union will not hesitate to impose billions of dollars in sanctions on American products if the United States does not scrap a $4-billion tax break for exporters and remove penalty tariffs on imported steel.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said Thursday the United States had to understand that the 15-nation EU did not plan to delay the penalties in the two biggest cases the United States has lost before the World Trade Organization.

Lamy's tough talk to an audience of US business executives came a day after he and other EU officials participated in a White House meeting with President George W. Bush. Both sides sought to emphasize points of agreement in foreign policy and trade matters as a way of moving on from the dispute over the US-led Iraq war.

Lamy said he and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick wanted to prevent the trade disputes from affecting the overall economic relations between Europe and America. But he indicated that Europe will not hesitate to move toward sanctions in both the export tax and steel disputes.

In the export subsidy case, the EU has published a list of $4 billion worth of American products that will be penalized if Congress has not scrapped by year's end a part of US tax law which the WTO said violates global trade rules.

The other case involves a WTO ruling that Bush violated trade rules in 2002 when he imposed penalty tariffs of up to 30 percent on various steel imports to provide temporary relief to the US steel industry against a surge of imports.

The US government has said it would appeal the ruling. Lamy said the best outcome would be for the administration to voluntarily remove the sanctions. If the tariffs remain in place and the United States loses the WTO appeal, the EU will move immediately to impose retaliatory tariffs against US products, Lamy said.

"These safeguards have cost us a lot of (steel) exports and a lot of money and (they) should disappear as soon as possible," Lamy said.

In the tax case, Congress has struggled to come up with a replacement for the export subsidy that provided $4 billion annually in tax breaks for hundreds of US exporters.

Lamy said he had spent the past two days discussing various options with members of Congress, including Rep. Bill Thomas, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and Sen. Charles Grassley, chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

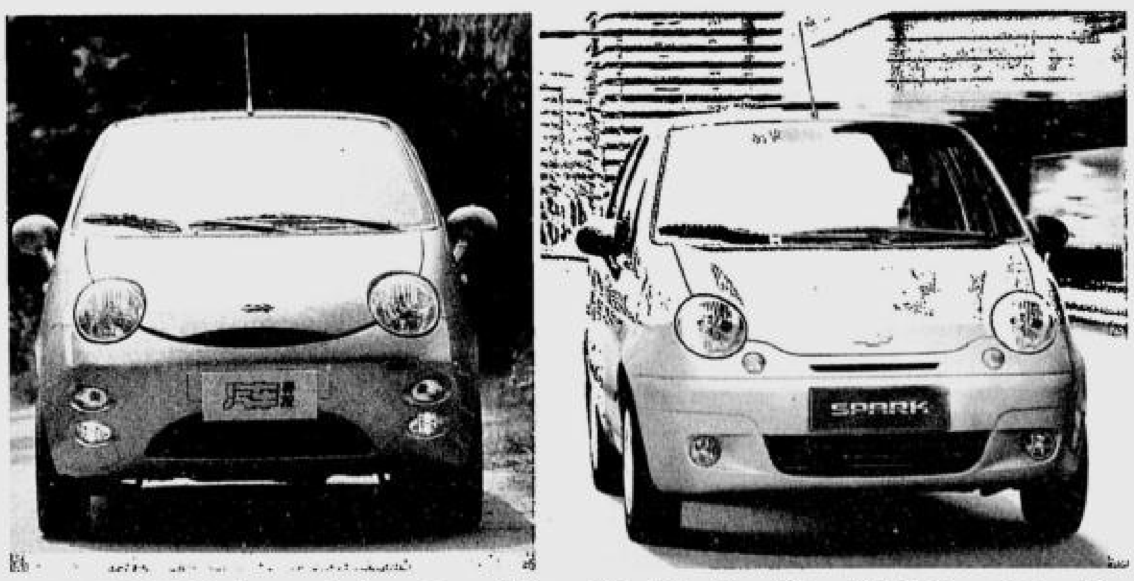
One plan, sponsored by Thomas, would create new tax incentives aimed at the same group of companies that now benefit from the export subsidy. A competing proposal, sponsored by Reps. Charles Rangel and Philip Crane would set up a new, lower tax rate for all domestic manufacturers.

Lamy said he understood that a third proposal was about to be introduced. He refused to take sides over which approach the EU saw as preferable, saying his opinion would not help resolve the dispute in Congress.

On other trade matters, Lamy said it had not been helpful for the United States to push forward with a WTO case challenging the EU's ban on genetically modified food at the very time that the EU was in the process of coming up with scientific guidelines on this issue.

Lamy also said it was "dishonest and cynical" for Bush and other US officials to contend that the EU's current ban on genetically modified food was contributing to starvation in Africa. *AP*

Copy-cat cars spark new piracy fears



A COMBINATION photograph shows General Motors "Spark" minicar (R) and SAIC-Chery Automobile Co. Ltd.'s just-launched "QQ" minicar.

REUTERS

SHANGHAI—Foreigners have long railed against pirated software and CDs in China. The latest complaint? Copy-cat cars.

Automakers in the country's booming vehicle sector, frustrated with what they deem intellectual property theft, suddenly face a new threat: the copying of cars, which take anywhere from $500 million to $2 billion to design from scratch.

General Motors says it is investigating media allegations that domestic car producer Chery's just-launched "QQ" minicar bears a striking resemblance to GM's Chevrolet Spark, due to enter the market later this year.

SAIC-Chery Automobile Co. Ltd., which sold 50,000 cars last year, denies the allegation.

The Spark is based on the Matiz, made by GM's South Korean unit GM Daewoo Automotive and Technology Co., so experts reckon it cost little to adapt for China. The Matiz probably cost some $500 million to develop, according to car consultancy firm Autopolis.

Bad guys getting clever

"The bad guys are becoming more clever," said Ben Goodger of intellectual property consultant Rouse & Co. International. "As the market matures, you are getting more mature attempts to rip off other people's intellectual property rights."

"The big players are going to have to be much more sophisticated in taking action," he said. "We're talking about suing people."

Besides GM, Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Volkswagen AG have also been ensnared in disputes as they pursue a market where car sales leapt 56 percent last year to break the million barrier for the first time.

"The Chery case is a little bit unique," said a senior executive with a rival automaker. "All I can say is, it's really worth the effort of all parties to look into this."

GM executives say they told Chery about a year ago that they would "not appreciate" them copying GM's products, without referring to any specific model, and that Chery assured them it would not.

Cherry picking

"We're concerned about public and media comment that the two vehicles look very similar," said Daphne Zheng, GM's China spokesperson. "We need to look at the ramifications."

The irony is that Chery is 20 percent owned by Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp.—GM's main joint venture partner.

"It takes balls to do what they have done," said one lawyer familiar with the situation. "GM had better take this very seriously." The Chery dispute follows other high-profile disputes over intellectual property theft or violations of copyright in a land where copying—from DVDs to goods on supermarket shelves—is rife.

It is hard to copy a car: The reverse engineering would have to involve the complicity of systems suppliers, or a direct exchange of designs between a company and its would-be imitator.

Most piracy in the industry now centers on parts like brakes and windshields and can be hard to detect, legal experts said. But they do not discount the possibility. Chery has had its share of controversy.

Last year, Volkswagen said parts produced by the German company had been used illegally in one of Chery's cars.

The Chinese firm said it used technology bought legally from Volkswagen, which finally agreed with Chery suppliers that they would stop using original VW components.

Biggest threat

Yet another complaint revolves around the Geely Group and top Japanese automaker Toyota, which is demanding 14 million yuan ($1.7 million) from Geely for using a logo similar to Toyota's in its "Meiri" sedan line, a charge Geely denied.

Foreign automakers "have said to me they view the counterfeiters as their largest and most threatening competitor," said Bill Thompson of Pinkerton Consulting and Investigations. *Reuters*

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316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,760,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,870,000.00	1,810,000.00
318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,950,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,750,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	2,950,000.00

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	800,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00
523i	1997	Dunkel Blue	57k	1,600,000.00	1,525,000.00
318tds	1996	Titanium Silver	50k	900,000.00	875,000.00

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Japan's jobless rate hits 5.4%

TOKYO—Japan's unemployment rate stood at near-record 5.4 percent for the third straight month in May, giving little hope for quick fixes to a deflationary economy that is pushing down prices, profits and paychecks.

The numbers released Friday by the government Labor Force Statistics Office show that 3.75 million people were out of work in May, unchanged from a year ago.

"We can say conditions are holding steady," said ministry official Michio Matsumura. "We must closely watch what develops, including changes in the overall economy."

About a third of the jobless—1.04 million people—are heads of households, underlining the serious labor woes that have troubled Japan for the last two years. Stuck in a slowdown for more than 10 years, the world's second-largest economy barely expanded in the first three months of this year.

Friday's data indicated persistent job losses in manufacturing seem to be trailing off, but employment is fluctuating in the service sector, the one area that is expected to grow in Japan.

In August 2002, Japan's unemployment rate hit 5.5 percent, the highest mark since the government began keeping track in 1953.

After easing to 5.4 percent in September, joblessness climbed back to 5.5 percent in October. It reached that record again in January and then dipped to 5.2 percent in February. It edged back to 5.4 percent in March and April.

Japan is unique among industrialized nations in suffering protracted deflation, a steady decline of prices that paralyzes the economy by chipping away at corporate profits and individual incomes.

Deflation has dragged on although the central bank has repeatedly slashed interest rates virtually to zero in an effort to spur growth. Excess cash in the financial system has not led to dynamic private-sector investment or consumer spending.

Some Japanese companies have reported improved profits recently on the back of cost cuts and strategy shifts. But much depends on prospects for recovery in the United States. A solid US rebound this year will lift Japan's chances for exporting its way back to growth. *AP*

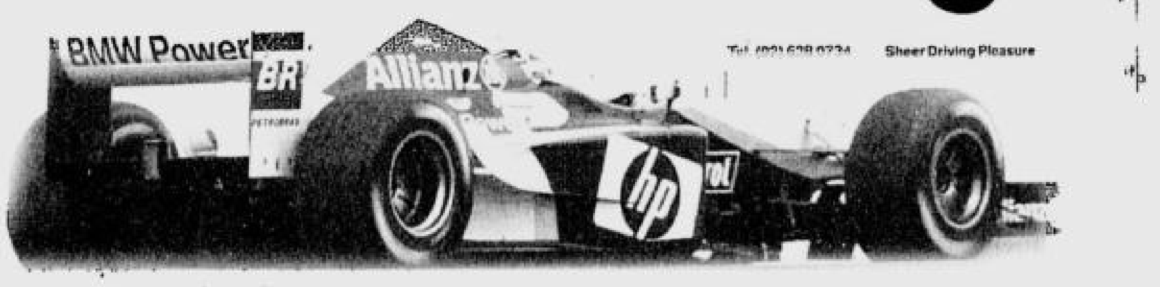
Japan Telecom, Ripplewood near deal

TOKYO—Japan Telecom Holdings Co., a unit of Britai's Vodafone Group Plc, said on Friday it was expecting talks over the sale of its fixed line business with investment fund Ripplewood Holdings to be completed in July.

"We are still in talks with Ripplewood, but nothing has been decided at this point. Whatever the result, we expect an outcome in July," Japan Telecom quoted company president William Morrow in a news release about its annual shareholders' meeting.

Japan's third-largest telecoms group has been in talks with Ripplewood about the fixed-lined business since February, with local media and company officials referring to a sale price of around 250-300 billion yen ($2.1-2.5 billion).

Japan Telecom, two-thirds owned by Vodafone, wants to shift away from the fixed line business, battered by user migration to mobile phones and cut-rate services based on Web technology, to concentrate on its mobile unit, J-Phone Co Ltd. *Reuters*



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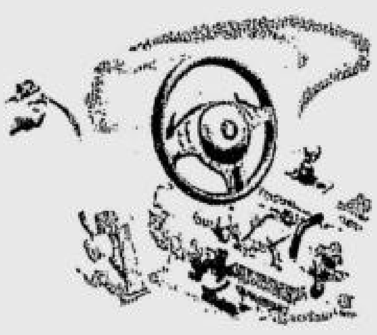

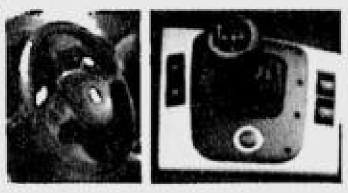

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Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

New anti-smoking law a letdown?

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE TOBACCO Regulation Act which was signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier this week has been touted as a "tough" piece of legislation. But not for a group of anti-smoking advocates belonging to the Framework Convention Alliance Philippines (FCAP).

In fact, the group's founding member Bobby del Rosario said, there are several loopholes in Republic Act 9211.

The new law regulates the use of tobacco products, phases out tobacco advertising in five years and imposes a total ban on smoking in enclosed public places, among others.

While the FCAP welcomes the law as better than nothing, it says the government could have done much better.

One loophole, Del Rosario says, is the requirement for a smoking area in all enclosed public places.

"But what will happen to no-smoking buildings? Will the administrators of these buildings now provide a smoking area?" Del Rosario asks.

The new law would also render stricter local ordinances useless.

"The ordinances of Davao and Makati, for example, that prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places are now superseded by the new law. The new law (states) that enclosed public places must have a separate section for smokers," he says.

Too much focus on minors

The FCAP also says the new law has overly focused on one particular group: smokers below 18.

"Are we saying that smoking is bad only for children below 18? It's bad for everyone, right?" Del Rosario asks.

The FCAP fears that imposing a smoking ban on those below 18 years might give the wrong impression to children that smoking would be legal, and therefore good, once they reach 18.

"Children want to look and feel like adults. The more you reinforce (the age limit), the more they will crave to be 18 and start smoking," says Del Rosario.

"Don't you think it's better to communicate to youngsters about the (toxic) substances in a cigarette? There are 4,000 chemicals in a cigarette, 46 of them confirmed to be cancer-causing," he clarifies.

DIONISIO BUCCAT

"We don't need more notices that it's legal to smoke when you're 18 and above or that smoking is dangerous to your health. A lot of people know that already. They just don't know why," he adds.

Del Rosario says cigarette advertisements should instead contain information on the contents of the cigarettes and the possible diseases that cigarettes can cause such as high blood pressure, stroke, impotence and cancer.

The FCAP also found the five-year phaseout of cigarette advertisements too long.

"People are dying of tobacco-related diseases. The primary source of information of (youngsters and adults who take up smoking) comes from promotions and advertising. Why not implement the advertising ban now? Why wait for five years?" Del Rosario asks.

Wolf guarding sheep

The FCAP is also questioning the composition of the interagency committee which will oversee the law's implementation. The committee will be chaired by the Department of Trade and Industry, with the Department of Health as vice chair.

"This is a health issue, why is the DTI heading this?" asks Del Rosario.

The FCAP also wants to know why the tobacco industry was included as a member of the interagency committee.

"Why allow the wolf to guard the sheep? The essence of the law lies in reducing deaths and discouraging smoking. Why is there a need to put (the tobacco industry) in the interagency committee?" asks Del Rosario.

Smokers protest

But for some smokers, the new law is too harsh.

Marissa Valdez, a corporate communications specialist, said she was already mindful of the rights of other people when she smokes and that she follows no-smoking signs.

"Why doesn't the government focus first on smoke-belching vehicles?" she asked.

Valdez added that law enforcers should not discriminate when they implement the law: "I hope they will also apprehend children of politicians and VIPs who violate the law."

Higher cigarette prices

Junep Ocampo, a journalist, says the most effective way for government to get across its message that it is serious in its anti-smoking campaign is if it increases the tax on tobacco.

Raising the price of cigarettes, Ocampo says, would be an effective deterrent for smokers. More so for youngsters who wouldn't be able to afford a pack of cigarettes if it cost P100 or more.

Ocampo says he used to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day, but has reduced this to two sticks a day. He says he has three kids who pray aloud every night for him to stop smoking.

Highlights of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law last Monday Republic Act 9211. Unless otherwise specified, the provisions take effect 15 days after the law's publication in the Official Gazette and in newspapers. Here are some of the new law's main points:

- Smoking is prohibited in public places including campuses, recreational facilities, clinics, health centers, airports, ship terminals, train and bus stations, restaurants, and elevators and stairwells. Separate smoking areas can be put up in these places.
- Selling of tobacco products is prohibited within 100 meters from any school, public playground or other facilities frequented by minors.
- Minors are not allowed to buy or sell cigarettes. Minors are not allowed to smoke cigarettes or any other tobacco products. Minors caught violating this provision will be prosecuted under The Child and Youth Welfare Code.
- In case of doubt as to the buyer's age, cigarette retailers must ask for the buyer's identification card, which contains his date of birth.
- Smoking areas must not be located within the same room that has been designated as a nonsmoking area. They should have a visible "Smoking Area" sign, which must include a warning about the ill-effects of tobacco smoke.
- Warning signs like "Cigarettes are addictive," "Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health" and "Smoking kills" must be prominently displayed on cigarette packages.
- Advertising limits: No cigarette ads in printed publication unless 75 percent of its readers are at least 18 years old. No ads in the back or front panel of magazines, newspapers and journals. No outdoor ads on taxis, buses, trains, terminals and stations. No billboards near schools and playgrounds. No airing of ads in television, cable and radio from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. No celebrity endorsers of tobacco products.
- Advertising in cinema, audio, video, computer cassettes or discs, Internet and similar media is also restricted.
- Starting 2007, all cigarette ads on television and radio will be prohibited. In 2008, all forms of ads in the mass media will be banned.
- Starting July 2008, tobacco companies are banned from sponsoring any sport, cultural or art event.
- The government must establish a tobacco growers' assistance program. Government schools shall provide scholarship programs for dependents of tobacco growers.
- The government must put up a program for displaced cigarette factory workers.
- A National Smoking Cessation Program must be undertaken by the government and smoking withdrawal clinics established.

PDI Research

From a former science club member (and other readers)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

AFTER I ran a column about the current state of the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC), the umbrella organization of all science clubs in the country, I received this welcome letter from Johnny Olaco [JMOlaco1@aol.com], PSYSC national president from 1978 to 1984:

Hi! I served as PSYSC president when September was proclaimed National Science Club Month. I worked with Mrs. Leticia Zerda, Col. Rogelio Luis, Dr. Joe Guerrero and staff members of the then Science Foundation of the Philippines—Ruby, Margie, Carmelita Viray, Lourdes Corpuz, et al.

I read with much interest your write-up about the PSYSC. Like you, I am glad that PSYSC is still in full swing. I owe PSYSC a lot, which is why I want to give something back. I had the pleasure of hosting the Christmas party of the PSYSC national officers three years ago at our place in Caloocan. During the gathering, I mentioned that there were some details missing in the current PSYSC history.

We were very fortunate during our time because so many people had helped us. During my years as president, we had a lot of "firsts." The following are just a few of them:

- **First PSYSC office at the PTRI building in Bicutan**
- **First PSYSC National Convention, attended by no less than Emil Javier, then the science minister. The convention, with 300 participants from all over the country, was held at Visca, Baybay, Leyte in 1980 (I believe). We had our second national convention at the Leyte National High School in Tacloban City.**
- **Launch of the environmental watch program**
- **Launch of the Bb. Agham contest**
- **Ratification of the constitution, with representatives from all regions.**

I would like to help. I am now based in Los Angeles, California. Please let me know what I can do. My telephone number is 818-7602121, Please contact me through e-mail or by phone.

Thank you for your offer of help. The PSYSC officer who provided me with the material for the previous column is Tara Thusette Tambolero of UP Diliman. I am sure the current PSYSC can benefit from your experience, and that the officers and members will contact you soon.

* * *

A reader is asking about the availability of my books. Lori de Castro [lori4453@yahoo.com] writes:

I always read your articles in the INQUIRER. I tried to get hold of your book "Eureka" at the National Bookstore but it is not available. Where else could I get one? I teach at the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte and I would like to give math activities to my students. Also, what is the website of Ateneo? Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

My books should be in National Bookstore or Powerbooks, but unfortunately, the marketing systems of the stores are not perfect. You can contact Anvil directly (671-9230) and ask for Gwenn Galvez, marketing manager. She can be reached through e-mail: anvilsales@eudoramail.com. Gwenn knows about your case, and has already acted upon it. Good luck and thank you for your support. By the way, the website of Ateneo is www.ateneo.edu.

* * *

Vhette [ku_vhette_ta@yahoo.com] wants more puzzles:

I really love your write-ups in the paper, especially the one about Mensa puzzles. I'm fond of solving those kinds of mental quizzes and I was quite *bitin* with the four samples you gave us. I hope you can give more of those puzzles. It would be a pleasure if you can send them directly through e-mail but you can also publish them in the paper, and I will still be able to find them. Keep up the really good work!

I am glad you like solving puzzles, and you are not alone. Many readers have requested more mind games, and rest assured, I will be publishing some in the future. If you cannot wait, get hold of my three books in the Straight Talk series: "Why Do Bees Die After Stinging?" "If You Breathe, Do You Inspire?" and "How Dead Is the Moon?"

They contain puzzles and other science trivia, and should again be available in bookstores. If not, contact Anvil Publishing. Thank you for your enthusiastic support.

(Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

J
DIONISIO BUCCAT

The weight of the world

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

MY FIRST visit to Disneyland was memorable for many reasons. But the most vivid memory I have isn't of the rides or seeing Mickey and Pluto mingling with the crowds. Rather, it was the number of fat—and I mean really big—people wandering around in shorts. We're talking about the Klump family from "Nutty Professor 2."

Somehow all the American TV shows I'd ever watched had failed to mention that the ratio of "Baywatch" lifeguard-type people to the number of people who looked like Gwyneth Paltrow did in "Shallow Hal" was actually about even. I've since come to realize that despite the societal obsessions with being thin and staying fit and eating healthy, there are a lot of fat people in the world, and their numbers are growing.

According to the World Health Organization, there were over 300 million obese people worldwide as of 2000. That number will go up significantly in the years to come, given that childhood obesity numbers are rising alarmingly and that a sixth of the world's population is either overweight or obese.

Case in point: American teenagers are now apparently undergoing surgery like stomach stapling, which was originally meant for adults, to make them eat less, lose weight and save themselves from future health problems related to obesity.

People don't walk

So how do we get everyone down to the ideal healthy size? Do we blame it on the fact that restaurants are serving larger meal portions and not simply offering the option of super-sizing one's order? Is it a psychological problem because society promotes the image of stick-thin females on magazine covers or down fashion runways? Or is there a genetic component that explains why people can't stop themselves from eating?

Actually, said researchers at the Congress for New Urbanism, part of the problem lies in the fact that most urban areas weren't designed to be pedestrian-friendly or to promote public transportation.

Most people can't get around without a car. If they're driving instead of walking, they're not exercising, which means they're more likely to be overweight, says Prof. Lawrence Frank, an associate professor of urban planning at the University of British Columbia and one of the study's co-authors.

This is not exactly surprising news if you think about how much you walk getting from one end of Ayala Center to the other, to say nothing of exploring all five floors of Megamall.

Researchers surveyed 12,000 people in a number of US cities and found that cities where people could get around easily by walking or through public transportation, such as in New York and Seattle and San Francisco, had fewer obese people than in cities such as Phoenix and Houston, where running errands aren't possible without a car.

Maybe they should take a few lessons from Manila.

Obese kids

Enter the researchers from the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. During the recent annual meeting of The Endocrine Society, they said that children who have an allele of the 11betaHSD-1 gene, which leads to increased levels of the stress hormone cortisol, are more likely to be obese than those who don't have that version of the gene.

According to Dr. Jack Yanovski, one of the researchers, children who inherited the same allele from both parents had the highest body mass index (BMI) among the 103 obese and 160 normal weight children who participated in the study.

Children who had only one copy of the allele had high BMIs, but their levels weren't as high as those who had both alleles, nor were they as low as the normal weight children.

'Fat' tax

But maybe the problem isn't in the city or the person; maybe it's in the food.

Consider the British Medical Association's (BMA) proposal to put a 17.5 percent value-added tax on all high-fat food products to help stem Britain's obesity problem.

The idea, according to BMA spokesperson Dr. Martin Breach, is that "a fat tax will remove (the) food manufacturers' incentive to pump food full of fat. Instead they will fill processed foods with healthier ingredients and better selections of meat."

By changing the ingredients in processed foods, the BMA hopes to change people's diets without their knowing it. Maybe this is the way to go. If you are what you eat, why not make food manufacturers responsible for determining how healthy we are?

Then again, isn't that like saying we have no control over our own lives? As masters of our fates and captains of our destinies, the problem starts with us, and should end with us.

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Is ozone effective in sanitizing indoor air?

Text and photos by Charles Buban

THE OUTBREAK of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has heightened public awareness on the importance of personal and environmental hygiene.

Apart from hand sanitizers, Vitamin C and household disinfectants, other products have gained popularity nowadays. These include devices that claim to sanitize indoor air.

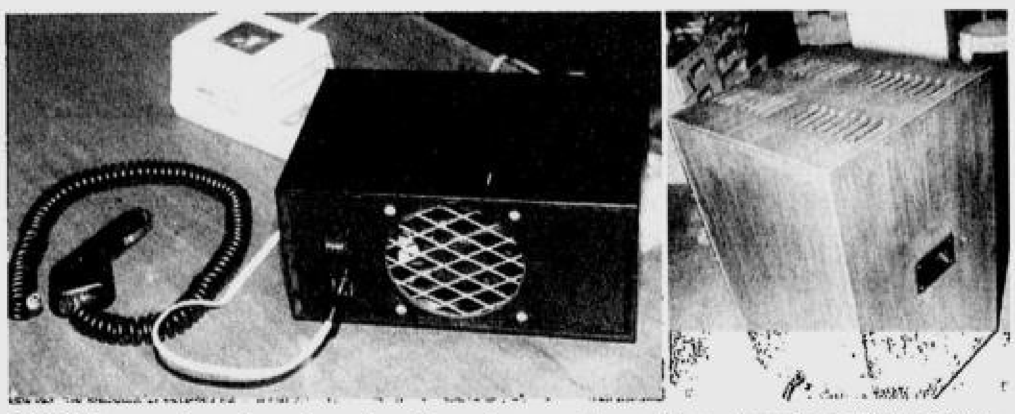
One such device is the air sanitizer manufactured by Electromex Inc. of Mandaluyong. Claimed by its maker to produce ozone, it is already available in the market under the brand name Ozonator.

In fact, a number of establishments including bars, offices, small hotels and homes are already using it to disinfect indoor air. Many use the Ozonator because the virus that causes SARS is believed to survive for several hours in the air.

"This reason alone can convince potential customers into trying our product," according to Giby Yalung, Electromex manager.

The Ozonator comes in varying dimensions—from the size of a shoe box to a 3 ft by 2 ft metal box.

He said the device is also effective in eliminating cigarette smoke odor. The device, in fact, was originally built for this purpose.



OZONE generators shown in various dimensions—and capacities—from the portable to the heavy duty, industrial type.

3 oxygen atoms

But is the Ozonator, and other similar devices, effective?

Ozone is a molecule composed of three atoms of oxygen. This is the same substance found in the upper atmosphere that helps filter damaging ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

"Our Ozonator temporarily converts oxygen molecules inside the room into ozone. The ozone oxidize the germs suspended in the air, killing them in the process and inhibiting further growth," explained Yalung.

Electromex's Ozonator uses a high-voltage electrical discharge generated inside the device to artificially produce ozone.

Assessment on ozone

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has come out with an assessment of the effectiveness and health consequences of using ozone generators that are sold as air cleaners.

According to the EPA, ozone is reactive with organic materials outside the body and thus has the ability to react with similar organic materials that make up the body. This can cause harmful health consequences.

It said that exposure to low amounts of ozone can result in chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath and throat irritation. Exposure to high amounts of ozone can worsen chronic respiratory diseases like asthma and can compromise the ability of the body to fight off respiratory infections.

'In the United States, several agencies have set allowable standards for ozone exposure:

- For the Food and Drug Administration, it should be no more than 0.05 parts per million (ppm) for indoor medical devices.
- For the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, workers should not be exposed to more than 0.10 ppm for eight hours.
- For the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, it should not exceed 0.10 ppm any time.

Yalung said the ozone produced by their device is less than 0.10 ppm and hence within the allowable limit.

"In life there's always a trade-off. One thing might be advantageous to you, but too much of it can harm you. Ozone is no different," he added.

Odor removal

The EPA said it was possible that some odorous chemicals will react with ozone, although there are few scientific studies to support this claim.

It said ozone is believed to react with acrolein, one of the many odorous and irritating chemicals found in secondhand tobacco smoke.

However, EPA does not agree with the claim that the device can kill germs.

It noted that although some data suggest that low levels of ozone may reduce airborne concentrations and inhibit the growth of some biological organisms when ozone is present, such ozone concentrations would still be five to 10 times higher than what public health standards allow.

"Ozone is still a poorly understood substance, and more studies should be done," said Yalung. "In fact, we are planning to tie up with a university or some researchers to find out how effective ozone is in disinfecting the air we breath indoors."

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Waking up younger in the morning

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

I HAVE always valued my medical training—from medical school at the UST College of Medicine, to my internship, residency and clinical fellowship at the UP-PGH. But a rather unhealthy skill which I learned in my 14 years of medical schooling and training was how to survive without sleep.

Getting by with less than five hours of sleep each night, with no sleep at all during duty days (which was every three days), became a requisite for a doctor-in-training to complete his tasks and responsibilities. Add in a couple of patients who unexpectedly develop serious complications, and your dream of having a decent rest (even just half an hour to rest your aching back) becomes an impossible dream.

My wife Becky and I get worried when we see our daughters Shelly and Abbie, who are studying to become doctors, burning the midnight oil too frequently for comfort. We practically see ourselves all over again, and we feel guilty every time we're reminded of the pledge we made that we would never go through the same schooling and training all over again.

But our daughters seem to enjoy college work and are learning pretty fast the talent of being intelligently functional during school days despite sleep starvation.

Effect of lack of sleep

One may learn to adjust to sleep deprivation, but it's always at a cost.

Clinical studies show that the adult human body requires seven to eight hours of sleep each night to recover and recharge from the stress of daily work. Adequate sleep protects the body against needless aging. Lack of sleep in the long term can make our body cells age faster, depress our immune system and make us more prone to a litany of illnesses.

A healthy young individual may still be able to afford it, but when unhealthy sleep habits are carried into adulthood, health problems may start to develop. Our body, despite all the adjustments it's capable of doing, is not naturally designed to accommodate the crazy schedules and hours that contemporary society imposes on us.

We still have our natural sleep-wake cycle that we need to respect.

As the sun rises in the morning, the pep hormones adrenaline and cortisol are secreted by the adrenal glands to get us going. When darkness sets in, the pineal gland secretes melatonin to induce sleep. Disrupting this natural cycle confuses our "body clock" and leaves us feeling "out of sync."

Anti-stress hormone

Some health experts call melatonin the body's natural anti-stress hormone since it allows us to have a deep restful sleep at night. Unfortunately, if we're pushing 40, our natural supply of melatonin may be deficient already. One loses his melatonin hormone as one's biological clock ticks.

I know it's never a substitute for adequate sleep, but one way I replenish my diminishing supply of melatonin and help my 40-something body get a high-quality short sleep is by taking a natural melatonin-T food supplement.

According to Russel Reiter, of the Center University of Texas Health-Science Center, adequate supply of melatonin hormone "keeps us in sync with the rhythms of the day and the season."

One's melatonin level peaks at 6 years of age. The first sharp decline occurs after puberty when one is about 16 years old. Adults at age 45 secrete only half as much as children. When one reches 80, melatonin production comes in trickles.

This is why we seem to sleep less as we grow older. We also tend to wake up around the same time in the morning no matter what time we slept the previous night. Many think this is normal or physiologic. But the low levels of melatonin may very well explain why the elderly have increased number of pains and degenerative illnesses.

Anti-aging

Dr. Walter Pierpaoli, an Italian immunologist, has done extensive studies on melatonin. He and his group are convinced that melatonin has an anti-aging effect and, when taken regularly each night, can extend one's life span.

In one of his experiments, Dr. Pierpaoli gave melatonin hormone to rodents and restored their youthful levels. They outlived their life expectancies by nearly a third.

Many other health experts believe in its potential anti-aging and life-prolonging effect in humans.

Dr. Pierpaoli and Dr. William Regeson in their book, "The Melatonin Miracle," said: "Melatonin can stop the downward spiral that we have come to associate with aging."

They added that studies suggest that melatonin may also have anticancer, anti-aging components, and can enhance cardiovascular function and virility or sexual function.

Melatonin also enhances the immune system and may increase one's resistance to infections. It may be worth taking in times like these when we have SARS and other atypical infections, according to some local physicians.

The antioxidant effect of melatonin, which is said to be more potent than Vitamin E in scavenging harmful free radicals in the body, is supposed to be partly responsible for these protective effects of the hormone.

Some describe melatonin as a "miracle" hormone, but I think we should not bank on it too much. We still recommend a natural healthy lifestyle as the best antidote to many diseases.

This plus an equally healthy attitude and disposition will always make the best "miracle" a person can develop for his body and mind, and no amount of good medicine or supplement can be better.

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1 Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995, 76 64C-68C.
2 Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9236): 7-22.

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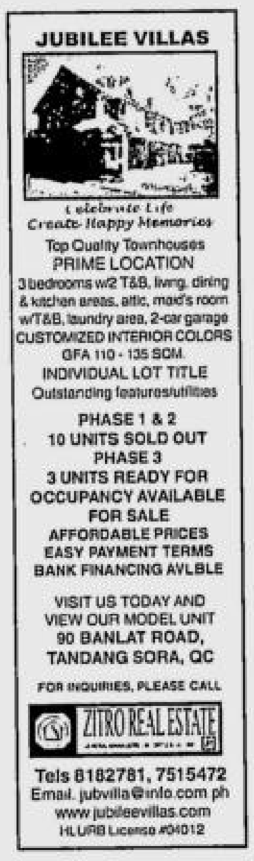
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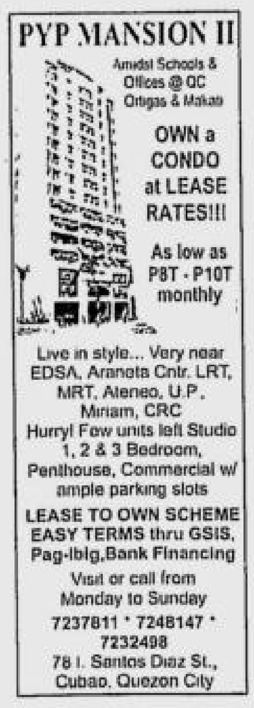
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QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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PR WRITER w/exp.coll grad to work full time in home ofc @Sucat,Pque. comp.literate 8428143;09178436875

Yaya HouseMaid Tel#7761331

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OFC PRSNL 09204014735

OFC Staff 0920-8062187

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased LEONARDO A. BALIDO has been extrajudicially settled by and among his legitimate heirs in an extrajudicial settlement of estate of the deceased brother dated April 15, 2003 per Doc No. 362, Page No. 73, Book No. XLVI, Series of 2003 of the notarial register of Atty. El Cid C. Fajardo, notary public in and for Pasig City. (PDI-June 21, 28, July 5, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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The following articles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

ITEM	LOCATION	INDICATIVE PRICE
20 Foot Container (2 units)	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP 50,000 each
Mitsubishi Canter Dropside	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP 200,000
Bobcat Skid, Model 763	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP 400,000
Kubota Tractor Model L4200DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 350,000
Kubota Tractor Model L3300DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 260,000
Generator KVA 250 (A1 Condition)	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 850,000
1997 Nissan Pick-Up 4x4	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP 320,000
1996 Toyota Corona Super Salon	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP 290,000

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 and (0917)627 8288 or Mr. Ariel Matubis at 885 3706. Offers should be sent to the above officers at Building E, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than July 7, 2003. Transport will be provided for a site visit to Quezon scheduled on July 3, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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Hardworking, reliable and responsible
Good moral character, work ethics and pleasing personality
Good social, oral and written communication skills

Qualified applicant kindly send in your detailed resumé and transcript together with an inexpensive photo to:

Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 499
1502 Greenhills, M.M., Philippines

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City, 1308

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the deadline for the submission of bids/proposals to act as External Fund Managers to manage a portion of the funds of the **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)** is extended up to **3:00 p.m. of Friday, July 11, 2003.**

Accordingly, the target dates for the activities pertaining to the bidding process shall be adjusted as follows:

a) Issuance of Terms of Reference (TOR)	**25 June - 02 July 2003**
b) Evaluation of Bids/Proposals	**15-16 July 2003**
c) Presentation of Qualified Bidders to the GSIS Investment Committee	**22-23 July 2003**
d) Awarding To Winning Bidders	**08 August 2003**

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect(s) or form(s) received and to accept the proposal deemed most beneficial to the System but does not guarantee that an award shall be made. The decision of the System shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager

(PDI - June 26, 27 & 28, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port District of Visayas invites interested bidders to submit Application to apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

I.
A.1 Name of project — **IMPROVEMENT OF BAYBAY PORT**
PORT OF BAYBAY, LEYTE

B.1 Scope of Work

I	General Expenses	Minor
II.	Rehabilitation of RC Dock (9.0m x 156.0m)	
II.A	Demolition/Disposal Works (Area = 1404.0sq.m.)	Minor
II.B	Reconstruction of New RC Pier (Area = 1,404 0sq.m. or Vol. = 839.0 cu.m.)	Major
II.C	Installation of Mooring System (26pcs. - 25T-Tee Head)	Major
III.	Widening of Causeway by 9.0m (Area = 986 0 sq m. or Vol. =2,922 cu.m.)	Major
IV.	Construction of Guardhouse	Minor
V.	Construction of Septic Vault	Minor
VI.	Construction of Fence and Gate	Minor
VII.	Construction of Plantbox (106.0 ln.m.)	Minor
VIII.	Installation of Street Lighting System (8 units - 6.0m Double Arm Street Post)	Major
IX.	Construction of Covered Walk (136.0 ln.m.)	Major
X.	Provide Safety Program	Minor

C.1 Contract Duration — 225 Calendar Days

D.1 Minimum Equipment Requirements:

1.0	1 unit	Air Compressor (250 cfm)	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	Backhoe with Breaker (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	Bar Bender	Owned
4.0	4 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Boom Truck (5T)	Owned
6.0	1 unit	Concrete Cutter	Owned
7.0	4 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
8.0	2 units	Cutting Outfit	Owned
9.0	2 units	Dump Truck (8.0 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
10.0	1 unit	Electric Steel Cutter	Owned
11.0	4 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
12.0	2 units	Plate Compactor	Owned
13.0	1 unit	Pneumatic Jackhammer	Owned/Leased
14.0	1 unit	Road Grader, 135 HP	Owned/Leased
15.0	1 unit	Truck Mounted Crane (25T)	Owned/Leased
16.0	1 unit	ClampShell (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
17.0	1 unit	Rock Crapple (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
18.0	1 unit	Vibratory Roller	Owned/Leased
19.0	2 units	Welding Machine (400 amp) Engine Driven	Owned

E.1 Budget for the Contract — P 25,567,368.00
Source of Funding — PPA Corporate Fund
F.1 Required PCAB Registration & Classification — Medium "B" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph. 3,000.00.

II.
A.2 Name of project — **CONSTRUCTION OF RC PIER WITH COVERED WALK**
PORT OF SIBULAN, NEGROS ORIENTAL

B.2 Scope of Work

I	General Expenses	Minor
II	Casting & Driving of Two (2) units 18.0m RC Test Piles (36 0 ln.m.)	Minor
III	Casting & Driving of 1,308m Regular RC Piles (450mm x 450mm)	Major
IV	Construction of 6.0m x 75.0m RC Pier Deck (Vol. = 126 0 cu.m.)	Major
V.	Construction of RC Beams (Vol. = 38.0 cu.m.)	Minor
VI.	Construction of RC Pile Cap (Vol. = 14 58 cu.m.)	Minor
VII.	Construction of RC Stair Landing and RC Curb (Vol. = 13 0 cu.m.)	Minor
VIII	Construction of Covered Walk (Lenght = 79 50m.)	Major
IX	Installation of 15T Mooring Cleats (12.0 pcs.)	Minor
X	Installation of Lighting System	
XI	Provide Safety Program	Minor

C.2 Contract Duration — 265 Calendar Days

D.2 Minimum Equipment Requirements:

1.0	1 unit	2-T Drop Hammer	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	35-T Diesel Hammer	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	35-T Truck Mounted Crane	Owned/Leased
4.0	2 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Chain Saw	Owned
6.0	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
7.0	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
8.0	2 units	Welding Machine	Owned

E.2 Budget for the Contract — P 7,018,360.00
Source of Funding — PPA Corporate Fund
F 2 Required PCAB Registration & Classification — Medium "A" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph. 2,000.00.

G. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract to be bid and 50% of the major items of work.

H. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form — P 200.00
Place of Issuance —
Philippine Ports Authority
Port District - Visayas
BAC Secretariat
CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area
Cebu City

I. Last day of Issuance of Pre-C Forms — July 04, 2003
J. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/Eligibility Forms — July 11, 2003

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) on Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, Sar

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Provisions of E.O. 40.

Further information may be obtained from the following:
BAC Secretariat — Tel No (032) 232-3401
PPA Website — www.ppa.com.ph
www.cvis.net.ph.ppa

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

MANUEL T. GORME
Port District Manager
(PDI--June 21 & 28, 2003)

FUNERARIA
QUIOGUE
MAIN: 67 Pasig Blvd. Ext., Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 641-7909 • 641-1735
BRANCH: 542 M. Almeda Street, Pateros
Tel. Nos. 642-3010
- CASKET RENTALS for CREMATION
- METRO MANILA and PROVINCIAL SERVICES
- IMPORTED YORK CASKET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003

OBITUARIES

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
THE CHOICE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST DISCRIMINATING FAMILIES OVER THE LAST 103 YEARS
#264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 7135231 to 35; 7140867-68
Fax No. 714-0865

SR. D. ARTURO V. ROCHA Y PEREZ

q.e.p.d.
1947 – 2003

Fallecio cristianamente el 23 de Junio, 2003 en Dublin, Irlanda.

Se celebrara una misa de requiem por el eterno descanso de su alma el dia 29 de Junio, 2003 a las 7:00 P.M. en la Capilla del Señor y de la Virgen, San Antonio Memorial Chapels, Forbes Park, Makati. Servicios Necrologicos se celebrara el Lunes 30 de Junio 2003, a las 10:00 A.M. en el Santuario de San Antonio. El entierro seguira immediatamente despues.

En vez de flores, se apreciara donaciones al FRIENDS OF ELSIE GACHES VILLAGE o KAIBIGAN ERMITA OUTREACH FOUNDATION, INC.

ARTURO V. ROCHA

1947 – 2003

Passed away in the peace of the Lord on June 23, 2003 in Dublin, Ireland.

A Mass will be celebrated for the eternal repose of his soul on Sunday, 7:00 P.M. June 29, 2003 at the Capilla del Señor y de la Virgen, San Antonio Memorial Chapels, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Necrological services will be held on Monday, 10:00 A.M. June 30, 2003 at the Santuario de San Antonio. Interment will follow immediately after the necrological services.

Please omit flowers, donations to the FRIENDS OF ELSIE GACHES VILLAGE or KAIBIGAN ERMITA OUTREACH FOUNDATION, INC. would be greatly appreciated.

"For God so
loved the
world,
that He gave
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him
shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved

ANTONIO T. PARIAL

OCTOBER 19, 1920 – JUNE 25, 2003
Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on June 25, 2003 at the age of 82.

His spouse *Consuelo,* and his children and in-laws, *Rolando "Boy"* and *Charito,* and *Carmencita "Girlie"* and *Ramon "Boy"*; his grandchildren and in-laws, *Charilyn, Catherine* and *Allan, Ryan* and *Lyn, Charlemagne, Francis* and *Chiqui, Cristine* and *Michael, Niña* and *Michael,* and *John*; his great grandchildren *Chael, Mico,* and *Nylan*; his living brother and sister, *Salvador* and *Agripina*; and all his relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Heritage Floresco Funeral Homes, Letre Road, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 1, 2003 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park after the 2 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS · DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS · FREE OBIT DESIGN

Our Beloved

MILAGROS CAMELLO FERNANDEZ

widow of the late

GENEROSO A. FERNANDEZ

Peacefully joined Our Lord
on June 26, 2003 at the age of 94.

Her bereaved children ***Josie, Sesie, Boy, Bert & Tita Diosomito, Marilou & Ramon de la Cruz, Sonny & Wyn Alba****; grandchildren* ***Raymond & Menchu Gonzales, Bobby, Rupert, Anne, Claudia, Paolo, Rachel, Gerard, Lea****; great grandchildren* ***Joaquin Miguel****; sister* ***Emma C. Santiago****; in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.*

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 1, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Brixton Hills, Quezon City.

Josefina "Pining" Quizon

Has joined her husband "Adel" and peacefully rests
in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on June 26, 2003 at the age of 85

Caring and loving mother of Aurora "Baby" and Freddie Viray, Joseph Jonel and Joan, Joel and Sette; doting grandmother to Rhedd, Bluehjay, Jenny and Ewul, Jolly and Garret, Ghouldie and Anna, Peachie and Luis, John, Cherrie, Jewel, Julryl and Juntzen; great-grandmother to Silver, Karlo, Micah, Javis and Strawberry

Her body lies in state at Chapel 3 & 4, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

"... absent
with the
body
to be present
with the
Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

The Board of Directors and
the Management and Staff of

KINTETSU WORLD EXPRESS (PHILIPPINES) INC.

deeply mourn the demise of its
Chairman of the Board

SR. DON ARTURO VENANCIO ROCHA Y PEREZ

who peacefully joined the Creator on June 23, 2003.

Please join us in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

KINTETSU WORLD EXPRESS, INC.

Chairman and CEO - Toshio Kumokawa
President and COO - Hirokazu Tsujimoto
Director and VP (AO) - Yoichi Tanaka

express their sincerest condolences to the family of

SR. DON ARTURO VENANCIO ROCHA Y PEREZ

who peacefully joined the Creator on June 23, 2003.

We request pious readers to pray for the
eternal repose of his soul.

KINTETSU LOGISTICS SYSTEMS, INC.

President - Yutaka Moriyasu

and

KINTETSU WORLD EXPRESS SALES, INC.

President - Kentaro Kuwao

express their sincerest condolences
to the family of

SR. DON ARTURO VENANCIO ROCHA Y PEREZ

who peacefully joined the Creator on June 23, 2003.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Marino De Guzman Tanglao

of Angeles City

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 26, 2003
at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Sonya Dayrit Magat**; his children **Victor (Veejay)** and **Cecil**, **Vincent** and **Melissa**, **Vernon**, **Lourdes** and **Alvin**; grandchildren **Enzo** and **Lance**; sisters and brothers **Helen** and **Rene**, **Jessie** and **Cita**, **Dado (†)** and **Auring**, **Ben** and **Josie**, **Mario (†)** and **Nene**, **Ottie** and **Nong**; parents-in-law **Maximino** and **Virginia Magat**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the House of Many Mansions Chapel 3, MacArthur Highway, Pulungbulo, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003 at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Sto. Rosario, Angeles City

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In Loving Memory

on the 4th Death Anniversary of

JUSTICE ALFREDO JAVELONA GUSTILO

(SANDIGAN BAYAN)

(January 24, 1934 - June 28, 1999)

His wife and children request relatives, friends and pious readers to include "Fred" in their prayers.

Masses will be offered at:

San Antonio Parish, SAVI Parañaque City .... 6:00 a.m.
Sanctuary of St. Paul the Apostle .... 6:15 a.m
Parish Church of the Resurrection, BF Parañaque City .... 6:30 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City .... 7:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City .... 7:30 a.m.
His Mausoleum at Manila Memorial Park, Garden Estate, Annex I, Parañaque City .... 9:00 a.m.

In Loving Memory of

COL. JULIAN E. VILLENA

October 10, 1916 – June 29, 1966

and

ADORACION S. VILLENA

August 3, 1920 – November 5, 1985
of
Batangas City

Mass will be offered at the
Eternal Gardens, Balagtas, Batangas City
on June 28, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

DEATH NOTICES

ALODIA YATCO Vda. de MUÑOZ

Died June 24, 2003 at the age of 97.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ALFONSO SANTOS LAO

Died on June 21, 2003 at the age of 83.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation, today, June 28, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington.

JOSE D. ALESNA

Died on June 25, 2003 at the age of 57.

His body lies in state at Fr. Willmann, S.J. Chapels of the Holy Trinity Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment tomorrow at the Garden of Eden, Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

> "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
>
> **I Corinthians 2:9**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City, Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor P Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City, Tels 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City, Tels 641-7009; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels 825-1206, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur.
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C M Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4705, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
Tels. 749-3006 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels 820-1502; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City, Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite, Tels (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
74-M Naval Street, Tangos, Navotas, Metro Manila
Tel No 283-1618
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City, Tels (075) 515-5960, 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City;
Tel 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels 831-1204
Sucat Branch 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9682 (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel Nos 843-8838-30 Fax No. 843-8223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila, Tels. 749-3879; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels 372-5084, 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Amaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tels 522-8840, 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Invitation for Bids

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Aklan
Municipality of Balete

Local Government and Finance Development Project
Procurement of Equipment, Tools and Furnitures

June 28, 2003
Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Municipality of Balete, Aklan now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of brand new equipment, tools and furnitures, as follows:
   Lot A – Supply and Delivery of Furnitures & Fixtures
   Lot B – Supply and Delivery of School Appliance and Other Equipment
   Lot C – Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Equipment
   Lot D – Supply and Delivery of Computers and Printers
   Lot E – Supply and Delivery of Carpentry Tools
   Item 1 – Supply and Delivery of Overhead Projector
3. Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Nolan Y. Renton, Municipal Budget Officer/SPMO Staff and inspect the bidding documents at the Municipal Hall, Balete, Aklan from June 26 to July 28, 2003.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,500.00. The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check. The document will be sent by courier service.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM of July 28, 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to Php 8,000 for Lot "A"; Php 15,000 for Lot "B"; Php 13,000 for Lot "C"; Php 38,000 for Lot "D" Php 2,000 for Lot "E"; and Php 4,000 for Item "1" in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee, letter of credit or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on July 28, 2003 at 10:00 A.M.

   BAC Chairman/Municipal Mayor
   C/O BAC Secretariat
   Mayor's Office, Municipal Building
   Balete, Aklan
   Philippines
7. A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 A.M. on July 14, 2003 at Mayor's Office, Municipal Building, Balete, Aklan.

(Sgd.) HON. TEODORO V. CALIZO JR.
BAC Chairman/Municipal Mayor

(PDI–June 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100,
Philippines Tel. 9252401

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that **OLD CRASH CART, etc.** will be sold through sealed bids by the Disposal Committee for equipment on an **"as-is-where-is"** basis on **August 28, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Pacemaker Room, Basement, Medical Arts Building.

Bid Form, terms and conditions and details of items to be bidded out may be obtained from Mr. Zoilo Luna of Property Section.

(Sgd.) **ZYLMA M. SANCHEZ**
Chairman, Disposal Committee for Equipment

(PDI - June 27 28 & 29 2003)

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.
PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (PBAC-ITR)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.** invites interested and qualified bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the bank's computerization project for the implementation of CASA/GL/ATM System and ATM EFT Switch Solution.

The pre-qualification documents/forms can be secured from the PBAC-ITR Secretariat, Philippine Postal Savings Bank Inc., 2nd Floor, PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila from **June 30, 2003** to **July 1, 2003**. The submission of the pre-qualification forms is scheduled on July 3, 2003.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/bid considered most advantageous to the bank.

Participation in the bidding is not a guaranty for an award of the contract.

(Sgd.) **POMPEYO E. REQUINTA JR.**
Chairman, PBAC-ITR

(PDI - June 28 29 & 30 2003)

Nina... heaven sent

AMIDST all diva's circumventing across the local music scene, a new female artist called Nina arises and creates her own niche as the country's Soul Siren.

Nina is currently the hottest Pop and R&B find who has found satisfaction soothing tired souls at clubs, special events and music joints across town. Her repertoire consists of a kaleidoscope of songs of love and loss, of first and lasts which she always delivers with intense passion and fiery emotion.

Manhattan Entertainment, Palmolive Naturals, Sun Cellular, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in association with Annabel Lee Cheesecakes, BNY Jeans and Warner Music will be staging the first major concert of Nina entitled "Heaven Sent." As she starts her ascent to the zenith of her career; she performs in her biggest solo-concert at the Music Museum on June 28, 2003 (Saturday), 7:30 p.m.

Nina will also be accompanied by Jimmy Bondoc, REtroSPECT, Akafellas, The Essence and Aiza Seguerra who will be the special guests for the concert. The main goal of the show is to provide a delightful listening; visual and emotional experience for the audience as the show waxes Nina's poetic vocal range with mesmerizing visual effects.

This show is made possible thru the support of Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Pinoy Central, Coffee House, Liquor Pops, Aruba Bar & Restaurant, Banco Parañaque, Astring-O-Sol, Eye-Mo, Sari-Sari Store, Hotshots, Master Print Shop, eTalent, and Pinto Art Gallery.

nina
heaven
sent

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

CONSULTANTS/OFFICE FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting the following:

1. Consulting Firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Lot 1: Assessment of SSS Information Technology Infrastructure

Approved Budget for Contract - P1,675,500.00
Contract Duration - 150 calendar days
Source of Funding - Capital Expenditures - Building Construction/ Acquisition

Lot 2: Design the new SSS Data Center at Cyber One Building, Eastwood Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City; Proposed transfer/relocation of the SSS Main Data Center, SSS ID Card Production Center and the Information Technology Management Group (ITMG) offices to the new Data Center; and Provide Transition Plan for the planned transfer.

Approved Budget for - P9,888,293.50
Contract Duration - 449 calendar days
Source of Funding - Capital Expenditures - Building Construction/Acquisition

Prospective Consultant/s should have at least five (5) years of experience on projects that are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to the bidded. For Lot 2 bidders, prospective consultants must possess multi-discipline engineering expertise, interior architectural and engineering design, support services during relocation, deinstallation and installation of equipment.

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting June 30, 2003 to July 11, 2003. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P500.00 (Lot 1) and P5,000.00 (Lot 2) to cover the cost of the bidding documents. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on July 16, 2003.

The criteria to be used by the SSS in the eligibility screening, shortlisting of consultant & the evaluation of bids shall be in accordance with the IRR of Executive Order No. 40 & the NEDA Guidelines for the procurement of Consulting Services.

The detailed evaluation of bids shall be based on the quality cost procedure.

2. Bidders for the implementation of new tellering of various SSS Branch Offices

		Minimum Requirements
Lot 1:	**Supply & Installation of System Furniture, Seating & other accessories**	2 years experience in the manufacture & supply of System Furniture & office chairs; with plant facilities
	Approved Budget for the Contract	- P4,311,357.00
	Contract Duration	- 45 calendar days commencing 3 days upon receipt of the Purchase Order or Notice to Proceed, whichever comes first
	Source of Funding	- Capital Expenditures (Furniture & Equipment - Branch Tellering Project)
Lot 2:	**Cash Safe**	10 years supplier of High Quality Standards/Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed/Fire Proof Cash Safe
	Approved Budget for the Contract	- P1,350,000.00
	Contract Duration	- 45 calendar days commencing 3 days upon receipt of the Purchase Order or Notice to Proceed, whichever comes first
	Source of Funding	- Capital Expenditures (Equipment - Branch Tellering Project)

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting **June 30, 2003 to July 14, 2003**. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 (Lot 1) and P500.00 (Lot 2) to cover the cost of the bidding documents. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on July 17, 2003.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - June 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Dagupan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Scope of Work : Planning, Design, Construction and Site Development of the Dagupan Public Market Project, Dagupan City.
2. Application for Eligibility is open to all contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project and who possess the following qualifications:
   a. PCAB/IAC Category – AAA and large "B" for buildings and industrial plant.
   b. Must be capable of undertaking the planning design, construction and site development of a civic/commercial center;
   c. Must be willing to undertake the project and accept payment in the form of Dagupan City Bonds redeemable in seven (7) years from the date of issuance.
3. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **July 2, 2003** at the General Services Office (GSO), Dagupan City Hall Complex, AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City. Tel. No. (075) 522-3967.
4. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, documents and forms will be received at the GSO not later than July 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. Opening of eligibility documents will follow immediately after the deadline for submission of documents. Late documents will not be accepted.
5. Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility will be issued by the PBAC secretariat on **July 24, 2003** from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at GSO.
6. Bid documents will be issued by the PBAC Secretariat to pre-qualified contractors on **July 25, 2003** from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7. The Terms of Reference for the project shall be issued to qualified proponents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) for the project TOR.
8. Pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 8, 2003,** 2:00 p.m. at the PBAC secretariat office.
9. Deadline for submission of bids shall be on **October 24, 2003** from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. only at the PBAC secretariat office.
10. The City of Dagupan reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any informality or defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the city.

(Sgd.) **BENJAMIN S. LIM**
City Mayor
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–June 28, 2003)

BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the privatization and development of the Villamor Gateway Center with an approximate area of 24.7 hectares.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that shall enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 2 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 30 June 2002 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php10,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 07 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 2, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents shall be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-2)
BCDA Corporate Centre
Gozar cor. Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI–June 28, July 1 & 10, 2003)

A leading garment manufacturer is looking for an in-house

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Contact : **Maritess @ 935-3567 or 453-3789**

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 8104901-10; Fax No. 8186807; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;
E-Mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites accredited general building contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license Category of "A", Registration of "Medium A" or higher for Building, and at least 5 years experience as general building contractors to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid, if eligible, for the refurbishing of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th floors of the SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, for the proposed PDIC extension office. The contract to be bid is funded by PDIC and covers architectural, civil, electrical, cabling (voice and data) and sanitary/plumbing works with an approved budget of P9,144,000.00.

Additional information including the general criteria to be used in the eligibility screening of contractors, evaluation of bids and postqualification of the lowest calculated bid are available at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City starting June 30, 2003.

The following schedule of activities shall be followed:

1. June 30 – July 9, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Issuance of eligibility forms upon submission of Letter of Intent and PCAB License and Registration and/or Authorized/Installer Certification and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Bring original copies of License and Registration for authentication. Both must be unexpired before the eligibility screening, after opening of bids, and during the entire duration of the contract.
2. July 11, 2003 (3:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of accomplished eligibility forms, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat.
3. July 16 –17, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) – Issuance of bid documents to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 for refurbishing and P500.00 for cabling, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat.
4. July 18, 2003 (1:30 p.m.) – Pre-bid conference at the 6th floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City.
5. July 23, 2003 (1:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of bids. Opening of bids shall follow immediately at a place to be specified in the Notice of Eligibility.

The eligibility screening of contractors, evaluation of bids, and awarding of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and EO 40 and its implementing rules and regulations. PDIC hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality therein, and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid is considered the most advantageous to the corporation. PDIC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

BAC-INFRA

(PDI – June 28 & July 5, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 37,000 MT (740,000 BAGS) more or less US Long Grain White Rice (4% Brokens) under 2002 USPL 480 Title 1 Program at the following indicative price:

a. Ex-NFA Warehouse, NCR - Php P18.50/kg or P925.00/bag

on July 3, 2003 and July 10, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on July 1, 2003 and July 8, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue. In the pre-bidding conference, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and milling).
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-bidding, bidding proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **July 1, 2003** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. **712-1572** and **712-1708.**

Bid documents will be available on **July 1, 2003** and **July 8, 2003** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI - June 28 & 29 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A REDUCTION IN RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 60 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 119, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2003-96

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO V)
Applicant
x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V) on March 10, 2003 of an application for the approval of a reduction in rates in compliance with Section 60 of the Republic Act No. 9136 and Executive Order No. 119, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-96. The applicant proposed a rate reduction in rates equivalent to P0.0441/kWh.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on July 11, 2003 at two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at LEYECO II, Real St., Tacloban City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed before the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MANUEL R. SANCHEZ, Chairman, and the Honorables MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA, and LETECIA V. IBAY, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 7th day of May 2003 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI–June 27 & 28, 2003)

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BUSINESS

No decision yet on changes in Meralco rates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission yesterday said there would be no immediate changes in the electricity rates of Manila Electric Co. as it still had to decide on whether the utility could pass on to customers its P20-billion settlement payment to the state-owned National Power Corp.

In an interview, ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez stressed that the power utility's rate-setting was regulated and that the reported figures on changes in Meralco's rates resulting from the settlement were still estimates at best.

"In the first place, they have not yet filed a petition for recovering the settlement payment and the ERC would study that very carefully," Sanchez said.

The P20-billion penalty, which would be paid over a five-year period, stemmed from Meralco's failure to buy from Napocor a minimum contracted level of electricity supply as provided under a 10-year contract.

Meralco said earlier that the settlement would mean an increase of 13 to 14 centavos per kilowatt-hour in customers' bills.

But it also said that a reduction of about 25 centavos would be effected as the company's independent power suppliers would be allowed to run their plants at higher levels of capacity.

In a telephone interview, Meralco's chief of utility economics Ivanna dela Peña said the firm would file the petition jointly with Napocor as soon as the details of the settlement were put into writing.

Last week, Meralco director Christian Monsod said negotiations were going on about putting into words the pass-on character of the settlement payment as well as the warranty of having Meralco IPPs being allowed to run at contracted capacity levels.

Under the terms of Meralco's contracts with IPPs, the power plants—Quezon Power Philippines' 470-megawatt Mauban coal plant and First Gas Power Corp.'s two natural gas-fired plants with a combined capacity of 1,500 MW—should run at 83 percent of installed capacity.

The take-or-pay provision of the contracts provide that Meralco would pay the contracted level of production even if this was not realized.

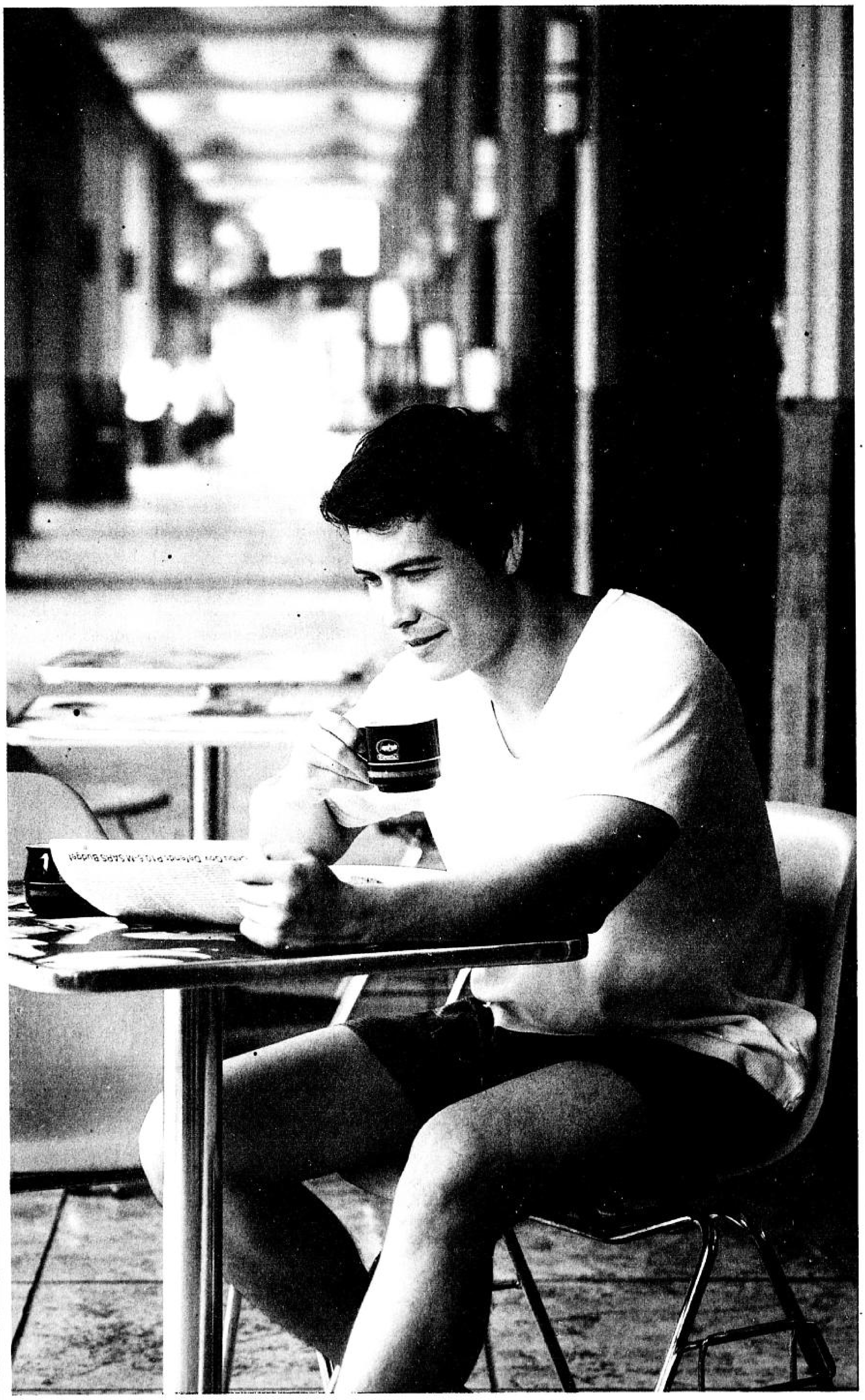
"We expect to have the settlement details in document within two weeks," Monsod said.

On Thursday, the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) criticized Meralco for claiming that the settlement would result in a net reduction of power rates, saying that this would actually mean an increase of 18 centavos per kWh in customer's bills.

Power spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said in an interview that the amount was still conservative by the group's calculations.

"It is not true that Meralco rates would go down if it starts recovering from consumers the cost of payment to Napocor," Reyes said. "(The utility) will still propose rate hikes by filing recovery proposals for the generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram), which will offset any supposed reduction due to the settlement."

The Gram that Reyes referred to is the new mechanism for utilities to adjust generation charges due to fluctuations in purchase costs effected by power producers.



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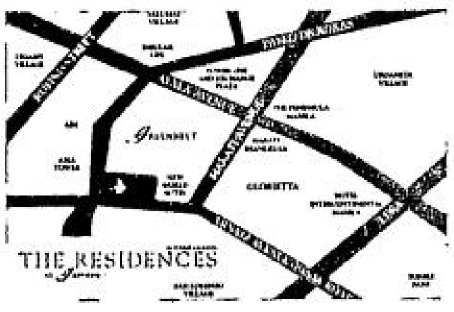

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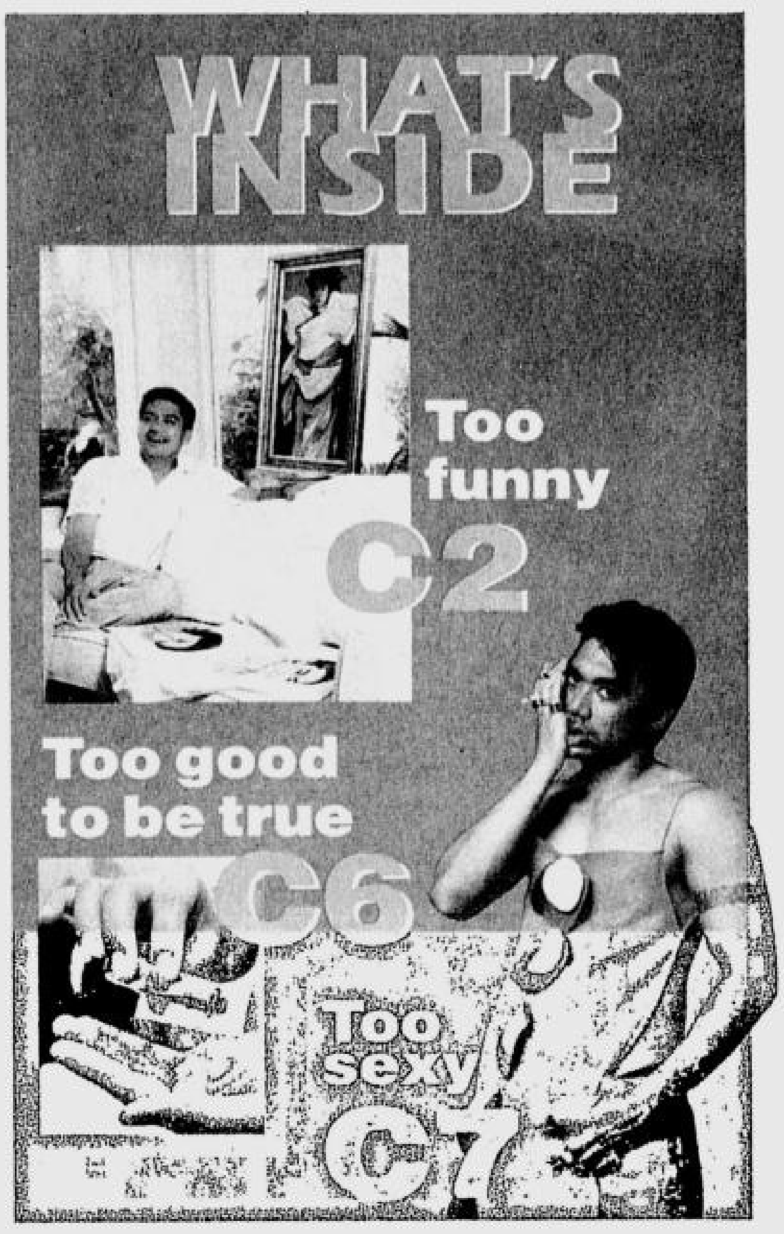

Core values, 'Wacky Chicks,' and the New Androgyny

Non-conformity is not an ugly word. To be true to oneself is to do good

By Marge C. Enriquez

ASK most people what their core values are–or at least what they care most deeply about–and chances are, they will be hard-pressed for an answer. Even those who may be able to give a sufficient reply are likely to backtrack when their choices are challenged.

We all have principles that influence what we do. We know how important it is to be responsive to these principles at all times. However, if we don't live in a manner that sustains our values, our destiny will be conditioned by the values of others.

Crisis of values

Life coach Denise Lawrence, recently in Manila, said many societies perceived a crisis of values and felt something had to be done about it, and fast. However, she debunked the misconception that it was in the youth that values needed to be strengthened. On the contrary, she said, her research showed it was adults that usually faced moral dilemmas.

"As they advance in life, they compromise their principles. Young people are more sensitive to right and wrong. You think this is surprising? Older people who have dedicated their life to personal development is a very small minority," she said.

Lawrence's Manila visit was part of a trip to several Southeast Asian cities where she gave lectures on values and self-mastery. Born in the United Kingdom to an aristocratic family, she studied in the best schools in Europe. After college, she worked with the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Now she is doing a research on values.

She said the desire to move ahead, socially and professionally, led many adults to compromise their values. "They do move forward, but they compromise their souls. Lying becomes easy, cheating on the spouse becomes normal. Unless people have made values their priority, towards the end of their lives moral decline is almost certain."

Reasons or excuses?

Survival–the need for money to support one's family–are given as reasons for mistakes made. Lawrence says: "In reality, those are excuses. A person who lives by his principles gets by quite well. They may not be rich, but they sleep soundly, and they have good relations within the family. Corruption has a price. Temporarily, you gain some money and influence but in the end, the laws of karma are set in motion.

"Look at World.Com, Enron, AOL. Who got it the hardest? Shareholders and employees. This is very common in the world today. It takes guts to hold on to your principles. You face a lot of opposition from those who don't want you to reflect their weaknesses. People need to take a close look at their material needs and pare them down."

However, many people are either afraid to assert their values, or just don't have the power to do so, for fear of criticism from their peers.

Lawrence wonders: "Why would anyone want to stay in a circle of such peers? Losing one's values invariably ends up in a lack of self-esteem and insecurity."

To do good, is to be true to the self, said Lawrence. "Victory in all conflict calls for guts, and requires that you don't care what people think. You may find yourself an outcast. Part of doing the right thing is the willingness to pay this price. But when you do something according to your conscience, your mind becomes extraordinarily clear. It is difficult to lie to an honest person."

Courage with humility

A good starting point towards this goal is to define your values, then prioritize them, Lawrence suggested. The goal is then crystallized, and actions become purposeful.

"Many people say they don't get anything by doing the right thing, except to become marginalized. Well, you have to pass through that and see what is the benefit of doing good. Together with incredible clarity, you also get moral power. When you say something, people will listen and respect your point of view. You become fearless. A fearless person cannot be corrupted."

However, she cautioned, the courage to undertake such a journey is best combined with humility. "If there isn't humility what you have attained becomes corrupted. All your hard work is for naught. Even if you tell the truth, if there is the slightest negative emotion, the truth is compromised."

The life coach offered a simple formula for day-to-day success in this endeavor: "Don't turn your mind to God only when you're in trouble. Feel His peace and purity constantly because there's nowhere else you can get these from; almost everyone in the world is spiritually depleted. When there are challenges, you will find a stock of inner strength with which to address them. Of course, sometimes you will fail. You then dust yourself off and get on with it."

Changing times

Lawrence's insights came to mind as I perused Stanley Doonan's new book "Wacky Chicks," which is reviewed in this issue by **Cherish Garcia-Hernandez**. Bibliophiles who have been following Cherish's work must have noticed that the books she takes exception to are those that challenge long-held beliefs about life, beauty and glamour.

Doonan writes about women who are extremely original, and thus make the world more interesting. To me, wacky women are not those who display deviant behavior only to be gossiped about, or those who dress unconventionally just for photo ops or in pursuit of popularity.

It is a paradox that nonconformists are actually those who remain genuine to themselves in a world which, to them, has become pretentious, even fraudulent.

Georgina Solina, pioneer in astrology in the Philippines, says horoscopes in the new millennium focus on personal growth. Many astrologers pay the closest attention to the planets nearest the sun, such as Venus (relationships and money), Jupiter (opportunities) and Saturn (retribution). This explains the popularity of horoscopes on such mundane matters as love, luck and wealth.

Progessive astrologers prefer to examine the energies of Neptune (spirituality), Uranus (the planet of the wake-up call) and Pluto (transformation) because in the long run, our life is under the influence less of the stars than of our choices.

Solina's articles may seem arcane but, believe it or not, she gets a lot of feedback. This goes to show that, further into the 21st century, attitudes are bound to change more radically.

Speaking of attitude, **Martin Valdes** writes about the New Adrogyny: real men who are not ashamed of showing their feminine side. Which leads us to our unique shoot of actor **Victor Neri** clad in womenswear. Photographer **Jun de Leon**, "turned on" earlier by the machismo exuded by Hollywood's Brad Pitt, even while photographed in a mini-skirt, did not ask Victor to shave his legs.

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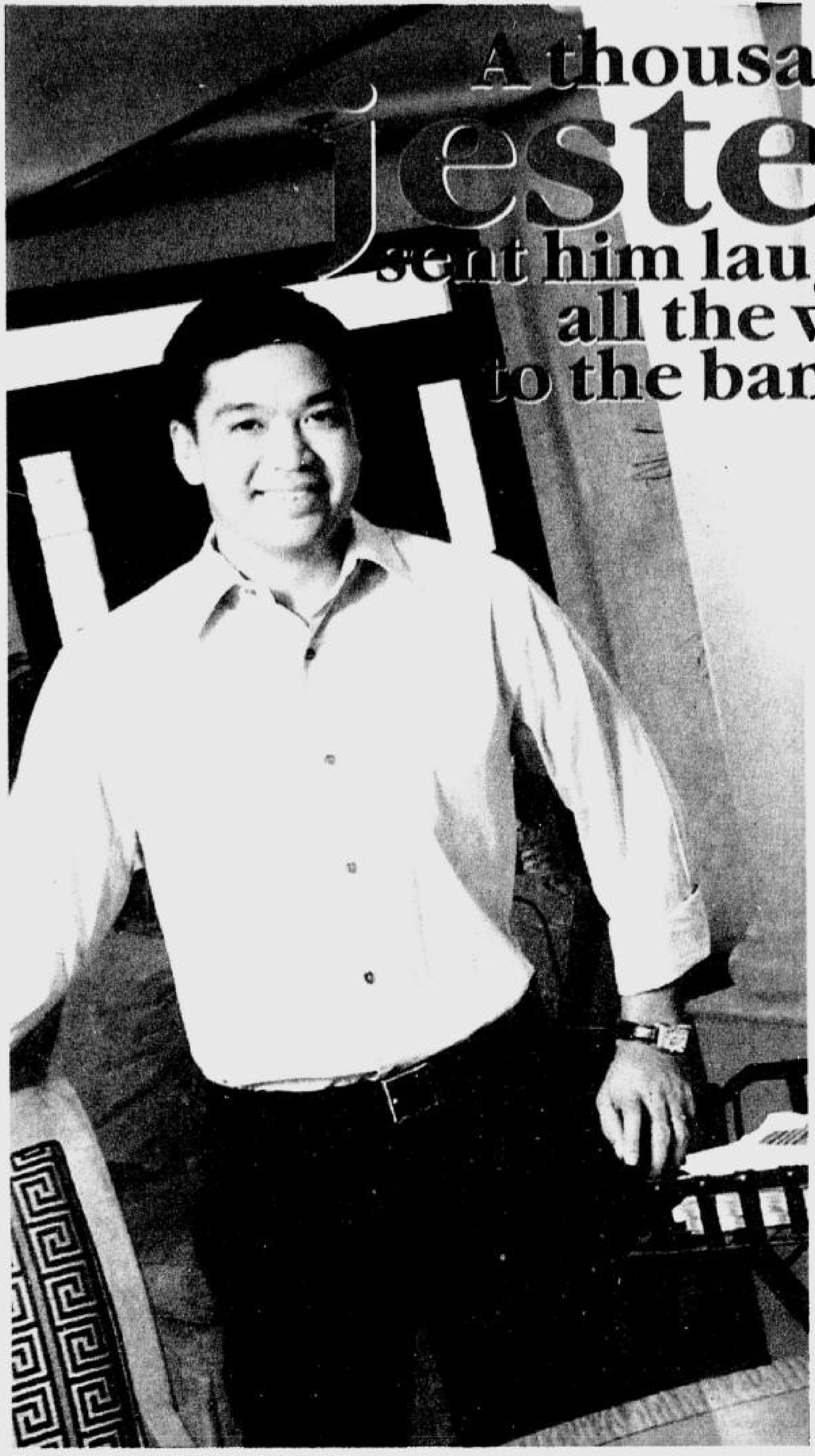
L-RAY VILLAFUERTE

A thousand jesters sent him laughing all the way to the bank



VILLAFUERTE. Admired for his fearlessness

THE FILIPINO ingenuity in LDG crafts has conquered the United States and Europe.

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor
Photos by Jay Javier

IT STARTED in 1990, with life-sized jester dolls.

There was an order for a thousand pieces of five-foot-tall dolls which had to be packed off to a department store in Australia in 30 days, in time for Christmas.

No Filipino exporter would take on the order. Too little time. The buyer was desperate.

Enter Luis "L-Ray" Villafuerte Jr., then 22, a fresh graduate of business management from De La Salle University, where he and wife Lara had met as classmates. At the time, L-Ray was earning commissions as buying agent for stores abroad. He stepped forward and . . .

"The buyer took a chance with me," L-Ray says.

Lara has her own version of the story: "When my husband puts his mind to something, he is fearless; he just does it. A lot of people admire him for that."

With 50 workers from Camarines Sur, the Villafuertes' home province, L-Ray and Lara met the delivery date for the jester dolls.

"We bought all the materials from Divisoria," Lara recounts. "There were just three of us in the beginning–L-Ray, myself and the sample maker. We fashioned the jester's face first. In three days, we had the sample. The one who acts fastest gets the orders. It was true then, it is very true now."

Connections?

Cynics might insist that the politically prominent name "Villafuerte" had opened doors.

L-Ray's father, Luis Villafuerte, was a former congressman and Cabinet member, in charge of the trade and industry portfolio. In his heyday, he was also a well-known investment banker and partner in a law firm with politically prominent players. The senior Villafuerte is now governor of Camarines Sur and, next year, plans to run for Congress again.

Lara protests that the extent of "Papa's" support was to ask them, "'*O, ano*, are you gonna make it?" Actually, she offers, "banks are more wary if you have a political background."

Says L-Ray: "In the international market, the most important things are your pricing, your product offer, and your ability to deliver. Even if you are the president's child, if your product is inferior, you'll get nowhere."

L-Ray's mother, the former Nelly Favis, used to head the Garments and Textiles Export Board. Her clout perhaps made it easy for the couple to secure an export quota. The dolls were clad in cloth, after all. "But that was it," Lara insists. L-Ray says his mom encouraged all her children to get into exports as a matter of course, because she used to be in the academe, teaching the subject.

Easy now

Indeed, the young couple have made it, and how. Lara remembers one Christmas Day spent with their workers, loading a container van with a "huge" order for Valentine's Day.

In 1966, the business started becoming easier for the couple. That year, Lara's Gifts & Decors, Inc. (LGD) won a Golden Shell Award for exports. Systems were set in place so that everyone has since been able to go on annual vacation from Dec. 20 to Jan. 3.

Last year, L-Ray received a Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award, again for exports. Today, almost 14 years and four children later, L-Ray and Lara, both aged 35, run an incredibly successful export business in home accessories crafted from wrought iron.

"The whole year is peak season for us," Lara says. The rise in exports of home accessories, compared to garments and electronics, has been very stable. "*Super lakas*," Lara gushes. The 9-11 attack in New York and the war in Iraq have made Americans stay home more, she explains. "Cocooning is how they put it," she says. "So they have more time for home improvement, too."

Sales of LDG reached $20 million last year. Lara is confident that this year's figures will top that. She is in charge of marketing and finance, while L-Ray keeps a close eye on product development and design, in a reversal of roles that they undertook early on.

A visit to LDG's two-hectare factory-cum-showroom can make one forget for a moment that it is in a small municipality, Bicutan, in a Third World country. The spaciousness, the technology, are overwhelming. Moreover, the thought that a young couple can run such a business so well, is most inspiring.

They now have 3,000 workers, 500 of them in-house and 95 per cent Bicolano.

Industry leader

LDG is the only company in the country–and one of only three in Asia–that has two huge ultra-modern laser machines for cutting metal sheets with precision and speed, plus a smaller one for sample-making. Six or seven years ago, L-Ray saw that China was becoming a big threat, so he purchased high technology equipment from Japan. With the purchase came two months of in-house training for LDG workers by the Japanese.

The two huge laser machines are housed in a big air-conditioned room. The machines can cut any design on metal sheets, quietly work round-the-clock and ruling out human error.

The Villafuertes are hands-on bosses. "We want things done today. *Wala kaming* 'tomorrow' habit. We treat every shipment as the last shipment. If we mess up, lose money, we learn from that and move on. The key is to have a product that has perceived value but is reasonably priced."

At the factory, rows and rows of male and female workers clad in color-coded shirts wrap strings of beads on the outer edges of wrought iron picture frames, weave dried banana bark on wrought iron baskets, and hang candleholders on moving thin metal strips that file into a big booth where these are mechanically spray-painted.

They dip plain glass cups into liquid dyes, set up hundreds of fireplace screens back to back, ready for inventory and packing. Quick, steady hands slip wrought iron candleholders into plastic bags and then into glossy boxes, ready for trips to such store chains in the Unites States as Target, Pier One Imports, Kohl's, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Linens & Things.

Product samples are Fedex-ed to buyers at the quickest possible time. Says Lara: "When people request for samples, in 10 days to two weeks, we give it to them. If we can give it to you in three days, we do it. The next day is even better."

Seize it!

L-Ray's take: "You should seize the opportunity because it may never come again. I take risks. I do my math. How do we do the samples in 15 days? I compute that. I always give an allowance for delays. If we are delayed, we airfreight the samples."

To get to the buyers even faster, LDG maintains a warehouse in Los Angeles and a showroom exclusively for Target in Minneapolis. Plans are afoot to open a showroom in New York. L-Ray is toying with the idea of LDG setting up its own store in the US, but feels that more than one would be necessary to establish a decent presence in that huge market.

"We're one of the more important vendors of Target," Lara says. LDG is also the first Filipino company to deal directly with the American department store chain which has 1,240 stores nationwide. "AMC is Target's buying agent here. We used to go through it but Target was so impressed with our showroom that it started buying directly from us." Today, LDG is even bigger than AMC. The Bicutan showroom is slated for expansion, because major buyers visit it at least thrice a year.

But L-Ray is now attracted to politics as well. "I want to leave a legacy," he explains. "My Dad has built schools. I will continue his education program, but my goal is livelihood generation. I want to attract investments in tourism and information technology in the province."

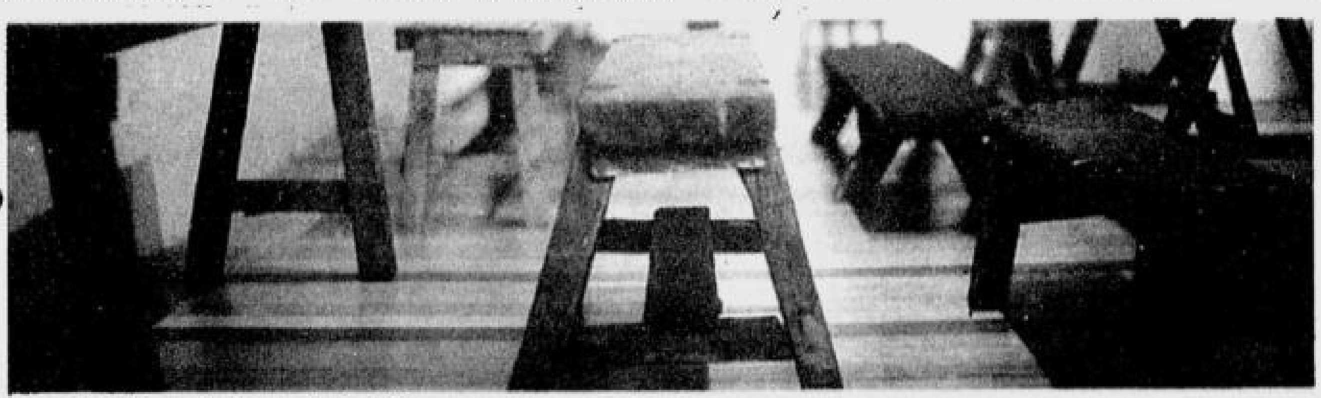
Lara is fully supportive of this move. On her own, she jests, she can put all her ideas to work, with little worry. After all, from P50,000 in 1990, LDG now has a capital base of P70 million.

Indeed, it now seems the clowns that started them off have sent them laughing all the way to the bank.

Meditation on the 'bangkô'

(Our thanks to Descartes)

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor



"I AM YOU" installation art by Lani Maestro.

PHOTO BY M.G. CHAVES

TO KNOW what is to be done.

"There is a wisdom which knows when to go and when to return, what is to be done and what is not to be done, what is fear and what is courage, what is bondage and what is liberation–that is pure wisdom."–The Bhagavad-Gita 18:30

Stopping over in Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya six weeks ago, I simply knew what had to be done. While my sister haggled with the overweight *tindera* over the prices of Chinese pechay, Baguio beans, cabbage, potatoes and papaya, I suddenly noticed a primitive-looking, weather-beaten, scarred *bangkô*. It measured about four feet long. Without hesitation, I lifted it and hugging it tightly, I pleaded with the *tindera* to please sell it to me. I offered her P500. Stunned, she refused so feebly that in a second, my brother-in-law (interpreting that as tacit approval) was loading the minimally chic *bangkô* into the van.

An icon of sociality

Once ubiquitous, the *bangkô* is now in danger of becoming extinct. Thus, it is opportune to coax out its significance. The *bangkô* brings back poignant memories of "good old times" when we liked being "happy together," as the song goes.

Truly Pinoy, the bangkô emerges as a relic to remind us that, if we can help it, we really never want to be alone like Greta Garbo. We also do not take to reciting our own credentials, or carrying our own *bangkô*, as the saying goes: *"Huwag buhatin ang sariling bangkô."* Except literally.

The *bangkô* is an icon of sociality, narrativity, and solidarity.

Never meant for only one person, the *bangkô* offered solace to *istambays* infront of *sari-sari* stores. One took its presence much for granted during family meals, baptismal gatherings, birthday parties, wedding celebrations, and funeral wakes. Many counted on its welcome comfort at basketball games, benefit dances, gambling sessions, fiesta masses, and town *ferias*.

Of course, one could always have it for oneself, if no one else was around–recline on it for a quick siesta. Or even pose one foot on it while sipping one's *bulalo* soup–a sure sign, according to the late Doreen Fernandez, that one was relishing the meal. With another person, one played a game of *dama* or *sungka* on the *bangkô*. Or simply flirted, even dance on top of it, as they do in some regions.

A haven of narrativity

Oh, the stories the *bangkô* would recount, if only it could talk! Of adolescent sexual exploits, basketball commentaries, *kanto chismis*, macho jokes, moralistic narratives, *aswang* tales.

If, jeepney passengers behave like passive spectators who watch without looking, people seated on a *bangkô* found it difficult not to interact with one another. Sooner or later, they would be swapping stories and slapping one another's backs. By dint of recounting their experiences, they would also have shared their lives, certainly parts of themselves.

It is no wonder then, that a certain bond gets knotted between "bench mates." At the Ateneo to this day, there is a "bench culture." One's identity comes from the bench one's group occupies on campus. One can be a *coño* (just outside the *cafeteria*), a nerd or *iskolar* (in Colayco Hall), a *sosyal* (usually, one who has made it to the soccer team), a "New Age Goth" (one who's always in black and hangs out in the Science Education complex). Woe to the naïve freshman who parks himself on a bench identified with a specific group!

Mark of solidarity

Has it come to this, that a mark of solidarity is now a mark of territoriality? If there is something the *bangkô* permanently symbolizes, it is the time when we did not have to organize joy, feign spontaneity, and calculate generosity. There was a time when we didn't have to pay to entertain ourselves. Come to think of it, we now pay to bore ourselves, almost to death.

There was a time when being together was reason enough to be happy together; when, like children we enjoyed communal pleasures; when simple, honest fun did not mean cheap gimmicks; when "Bench" was still an inchoate idea in Ben Chan's mind.

Monobloc upgrade

After buying the *bangkô*, I looked out of the van for a very long time, or the full stretch from San Jose, Nueva Ecija to Plaridel, Bulacan. I started checking if there were still *bangkôs* infront of *sari-sari* stores along the highway. I counted only a few. Most stores had upgraded to monobloc chairs.

Could it be that as the *bangkô* disappears, we are also losing our sense of the social, the narrative, the communal? When did we become uncaring, tight-lipped and calculating?

Postscript

Two weeks ago, stopping over once more at Santa Fe and waiting for my sister to finish her usual purchase of vegetables and fruits, I noticed that in the area once occupied by the *bangkô* that I had bought, there were two new pistachio-colored monobloc chairs. I glanced at the *tindera*. She smiled at me, proudly.

Email the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu

The Gospel according to the classic Porsche

NO matter the vintage, this car has always been an object of desire.

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

IN THE beginning there was darkness. It is 5:30 in the morning of an anonymous Sunday. The sun has yet to breathe life into a city slumbering in the aftermath of its usual vices, and all seems quiet and sluggish. But then, a distant hum invades the silence, becomes the roar of furious lions, and out of the gloom, a sight emerges to astonish even the most jaded Manileño. A stream of Porsches in varying hues and heritage cuts a swath down the highway, like metallic predators trawling the waterways of this asphalt ocean. The destination this morning is Laguna–although they are in no hurry to get anywhere–for the passengers to have a cup of coffee and enjoy each other's company.

I'm riding shotgun in a glacier-blue 1972 Porsche 911S, a classic, when I glimpse the first light of daybreak from the east. And it is good.

But what is classic? In the realm of popular mechanics, it is characterized by excellence, maturity and enduring appeal: something that has withstood the rigors of time and still performs exceptionally. I am tempted to think of my fourth grade English teacher.

To collectors, "classic" is a strictly chronological description indicating the earliest manifestation, such as a first-generation Zippo, a bottle of wine from a century ago, or a really old Barbie doll. Again, I think of my fourth grade English teacher. In Porsche-speak, many would agree that "classic" refers to models manufactured before 1974, most notably the Porsche 356 and the early 911.

Historic roots

Porsche as a brand name began in 1946, as World War II drew to a conclusion, at least in Europe. Although Ferdinand Porsche and his eldest son Ferry, had no real connections with the Nazi government and were non-combatants during the war, they were imprisoned by the French occupational forces for collaborating with the Axis war effort. (It is a well-documented fact that Adolf Hitler had commissioned Herr Porsche to design a car for the German masses, a *volkswagen* so to speak, resulting in the production of the now ubiquitous Beetle.)

The elder Porsche had been a well-known industrial and race car designer in the '20s and '30s and, while in prison, French authorities forced him to work up the design of a car they could market–the Renault 4CV. Imagine the American government of today coercing an Iraqi chemist to synthesize a more malleable form of silicone for the population of Los Angeles. Sort of like that.

Ferry Porsche was released in the middle of 1946–his father was incarcerated until 1948–and returned to his family's design firm in Austria. The first thing he did was to gather a small group of skilled designers, and they immediately set about creating a sports car that would showcase the Porsche brand as a creative force. Enter the 356, a machine utilizing the basic components of the Volkswagen, but tweaked for a more powerful performance.

After two more years of industrial evolution, due to the fact that the original was too costly and race-oriented for mass consumption, the new, "civilized" rear-engine Porsche 356 was reintroduced and received well by European sports car enthusiasts.

Universal fascination

Fast forward a decade and a half later. The year is 1964. Porsche is now based in Germany, the company has won accolades and races (including the 1951 Le Mans) and suffered a tragic loss (the death of Ferdinand Porsche also in 1951), and they've just unveiled the car that would become their most enduring trademark as a company: the Porsche 911 model.

Since then, Porsche has gone on to design several other models both for the commercial and competitive markets, winning the respect and admiration of laymen and experts alike, and establishing itself as a cultural icon in the process–think James Dean to Jerry Seinfeld.

But though each specific make and model emblazoned with the insignia of the Stuttgart horse has recruited its own faction of ardent disciples, the classic Porsche commands an almost universal fascination.

Fanatic or a little crazy?

I'm sitting at a table with three other men. On the table are two Diet Cokes, a beer, a cup of coffee, three books on Porsche cars, and, as a centerpiece, a small silver replica of the first Porsche ever manufactured. The latter items are for my benefit, to be absorbed visually just in case our ongoing conversation does not leave enough of an impression on me.

For the past two hours, these gentlemen have not stopped talking and I have come to three conclusions: 1) that the classic Porsche is so much more than just a good sports car, 2) that I may never be able to effectively communicate the Porsche experience by simply writing about it, and 3) that these men may just be a little crazy.

Our meeting begins with one of the men, owner of a signal-yellow 1973 911S, briefing me on the concise history of the Porsche. Soon after, the driver of an alpine-white 1967 912 4-cylinder joins in, somberly identifying 1973 as a definitive year for the brand, as American legislature forced a departure from the original design of the bumper. The third man, whose butter-yellow 1969 356 is parked outside, nods sagely as his colleagues debate the exact demographic of classic Porsches in the Philippines that are actually running–by naming each one of them.

I suggest a switch to decaf coffee. For two hours, these three men trade anecdotes, relive communal experiences, fantasize on ideal driving conditions and, most alarming, finish each other's sentences. For two hours these modern-day Templars argue the merits of their armored steeds, admitting to the sexual superiority of the Ferrari, but that's all they concede.

They speak with a fervor, a reverence not often observed outside a place of worship. But then again, their particular faith is mobile, and their chapels, parked outside. They gamely relate to me the parable of the Swedish enthusiast, who called one of them at 10:30 one evening from Sweden to inquire about the dimensions of the tires of a car he had seen on the Internet . . . of the acolytes of Porsche Japan, whose devotion to all things Porsche borders on fanaticism . . . of one of their chosen brothers, who has actually lived the dream of racing his car in a professional environment.

It seems this is a global religion, a fraternity of stick-shifters joined by a communal respect for engineering excellence, a confidence in their relationship with an open road, and a passion for all things Porsche. At the end, they look at me a little sadly, an infidel who will never really understand, much less capture the Zen-timent of what it means to be one with the road. These men do not possess Porsches. They are possessed by it.

Timeless love affair

The sound is difficult to describe, like the constant growl of a feral hunter, peaking into an angry snarl as the car accelerates. It seems to originate from the back, throbbing in waves up my spine, and vibrating in all directions. The ride itself is even more of a challenge to explain. There is rawness to it, something rough and untamed that today's vehicles no longer have. I can feel the ground underneath as we scream through curves, seducing a chicane, every bump and grind intimately explored and exploited in an exhilarating display of tough love.

And the power. Before the needle even begins to creep to the right, I feel a tension which wells up like the sea being held back by brittle glass, only to shatter and rage ahead unfettered, leaving lesser cars and awed bystanders in its wake. But most of all, there is a sense of serenity and mutual control. The car rewards generously but demands your attention. To quote an ardent Porschephile, "it's not enough to like to drive or drive fast–but one has to know how to drive well."

Time and space become illusory, and velocity is not a number but a state of awareness. I do not think about politics, or religion, or family, or money, or sex. The only thing that seems to exist is this machine, which is older than I am, yet teaching me new tricks. This moment just feels right. It feels classic.

Anyone with the right-size checkbook can purchase a sports car. But a classic Porsche is rarely about the money. It is more about a devotion to the timeless idea of mastery, of man and machine discovering the best of what the other has to offer, of a love affair that began half a century ago and continues to be reenacted in lonely highways throughout the world.

Amen.

You can be one delirious owner

DESPITE the sluggish economy, luxury car sales have gone unabated. Porsche's latest model, the Boxter, is sold out–including the demo units.

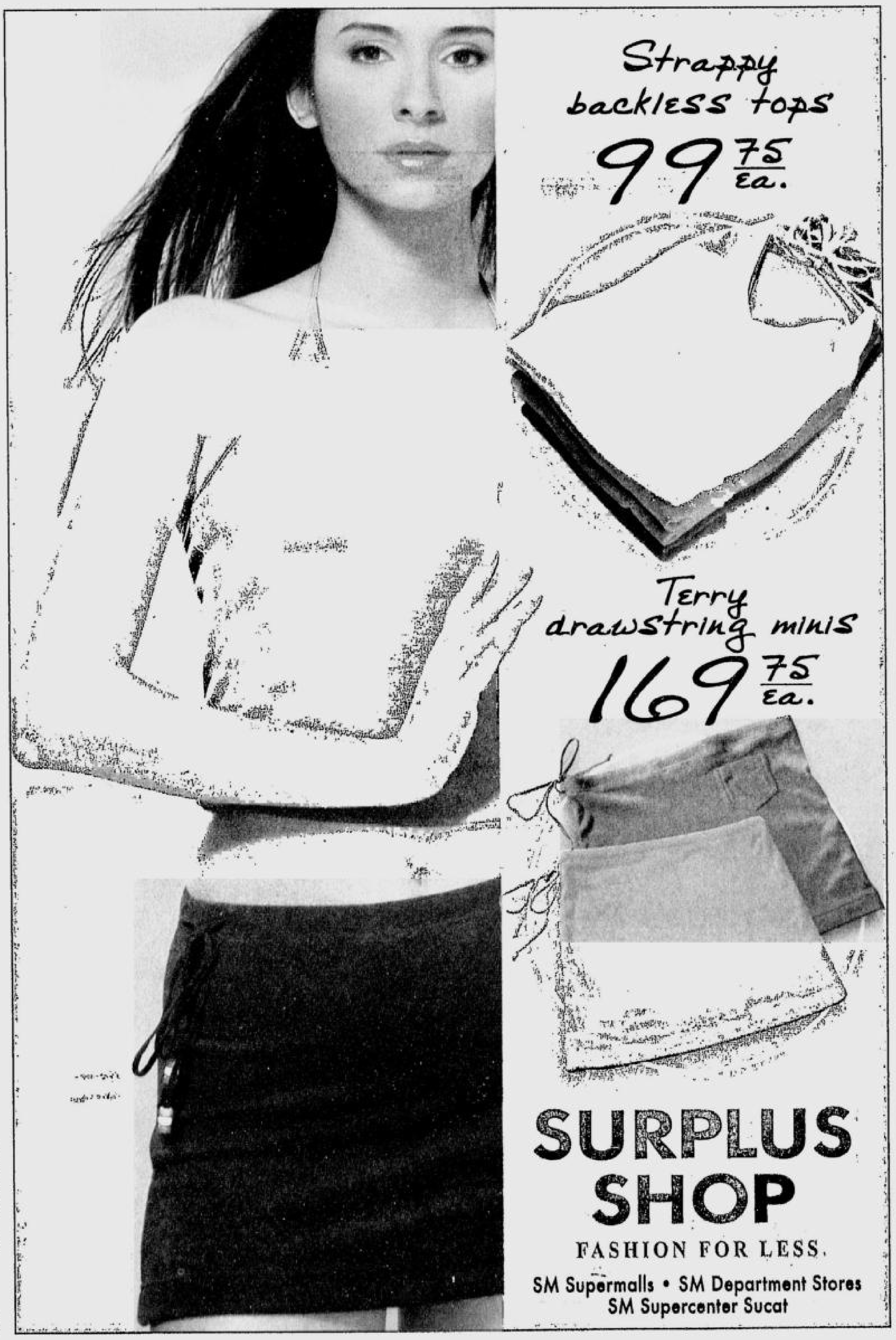
Nonetheless, more units are due out next month, guaranteed in no small measure by a tie-up between Axe Deo Cologne, Porsche and Monster Radio RX 93.1

All men aged 18 to 35, this is an invitation to own a Porsche!

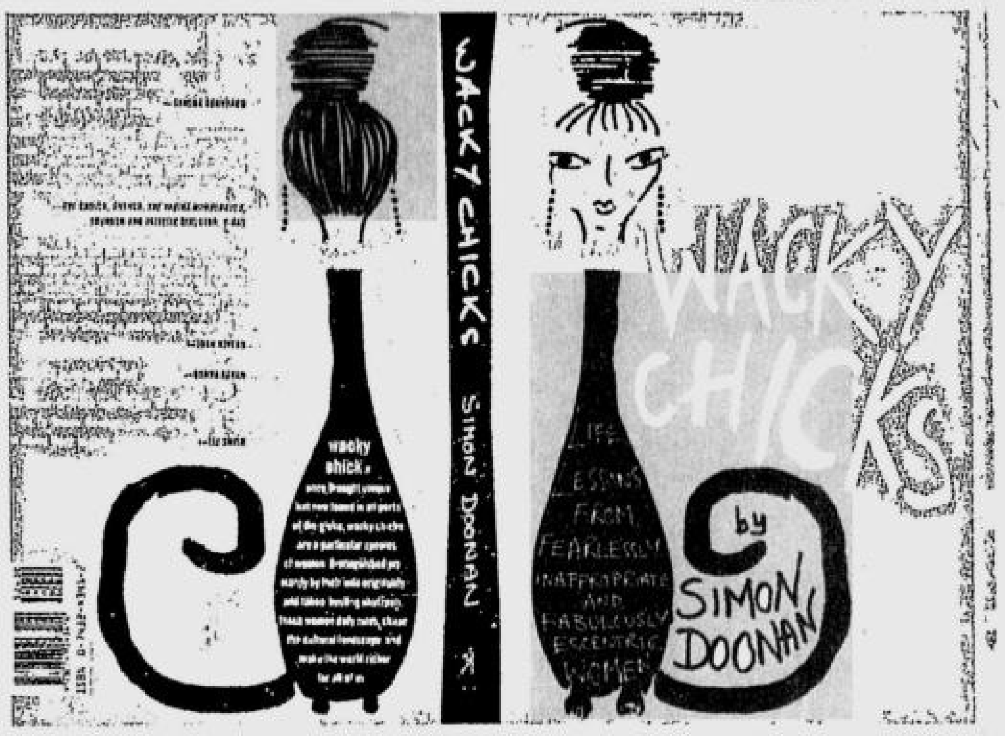
Enclose in an envelope two stickered caps of any Axe product. Print your name, address, age, contact number and affix your signature at the back of the envelope.

Answer this question: What are the five fragrances of Axe Deo Cologne?

There are entry drop boxes in participating supermarkets and drugstores, or mail to: Unilever Philippines 1352 United Nations Ave., Manila by Aug. 17. Grand draw on Aug. 30.



A tribute to 'fearlessly inappropriate' women


WACKY CHICKS
SIMON DOONAN
Wacky Chicks
Life Lessons from Fearlessly Inappropriate and Fabulously Eccentric Women
by Simon Doonan

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Wacky Chicks
By: Simon Doonan
Simon & Schuster, 243 Pages

REVIEW

APTLY subtitled "Life Lessons from Fearlessly Inappropriate and Fabulously Eccentric Women," Simon Doonan's "Wacky Chicks" is a tribute to all the women who have dared stick their tongues out to social convention.

In 16 colorful mini-biographies, Doonan takes us into the world of totally B.R.U.N.C.H. women. That is, "Belligerent, Resilient, Uninhibited, Naughty, Creative, and Hilarious.

"Colorful" does not begin to describe these unconventional women who reveal to Doonan, through private conversations, what it takes to be a Wacky Chick. He admires these women, whose tribe is increasing in number, he says, because they are the "apotheosis of feminist achievement" and because their lives are ultimate proof that "Women's Lib" has worked after all. In other words, now that we have burned the bra, it's time to don the tiaras and boas.

As creative director of Barneys New York, Doonan exercised his own disapproval immunity with his marvelously over-the-top advertising campaigns and window displays. The success of his first book, "Confessions of a Window Dresser", led to a weekly column in The New York Observer. Even if the idea for "Wacky Chicks" was inspired by the response he got after interviewing several of them in his column, Doonan's love affair with wacky chickery began early with his mother. Imagine an Irish Protestant matron with a fondness for bicycling down the middle of the main street while smoking Woodbines and wearing rubber high-heeled galoshes with glitter flecks in them. You get the picture.

Doonan's purpose is to encourage each and every one of us to "release the wackiness lurking beneath our blouses" by finding inspiration in these women's maverick lifestyles. He spent time sipping tea with them, visiting their homes, getting into their businesses and, in the process, discovered that they not only took their eccentricities in stride, but actually built their lives around them.

Moreover, they are entertainingly diverse, not just personality-wise but socio-economically as well, proving that there is no set formula to becoming a wacky chic.

Among these unrelenting, crazy, foul-mouthed women are Amy Sedaris, the apron-wearing comedienne who shows off her Pilates moves on the floor of a New York City coffee shop (much to the disdain of other customers); Brigid Berlin, the 5th Avenue-bred Warhol factory girl who flaunted her exhibitionism in the 1966 film "The Chelsea Girls"; and Spider Fawke, former designer for Jean Charles de Castelbajac and Claude Montana, who now lives in the San Fernando Valley with 38 lizards and a four-inch Tarantula, and works on the weekends as a park ranger.

Why wasn't I surprised that Pearl Harbour, the former front woman for the 1970s New Wave band Pearl Harbour and the Explosions, and one of Doonan's certified wacky chicks, had Filipino blood (from her mom) in her veins? Pearl has given each of the rooms in her enormous house a different theme, from cowboy to vintage kitchen memorabilia.

Aside from being a fun and entertaining beach/airplane read, Doonan's endearing sketches show why women should "blow a giant raspberry at society's expectations". His book tells us that women who take the road less traveled are important representatives of the ever-evolving women's culture, if only because they ultimately learn they can do what they want.

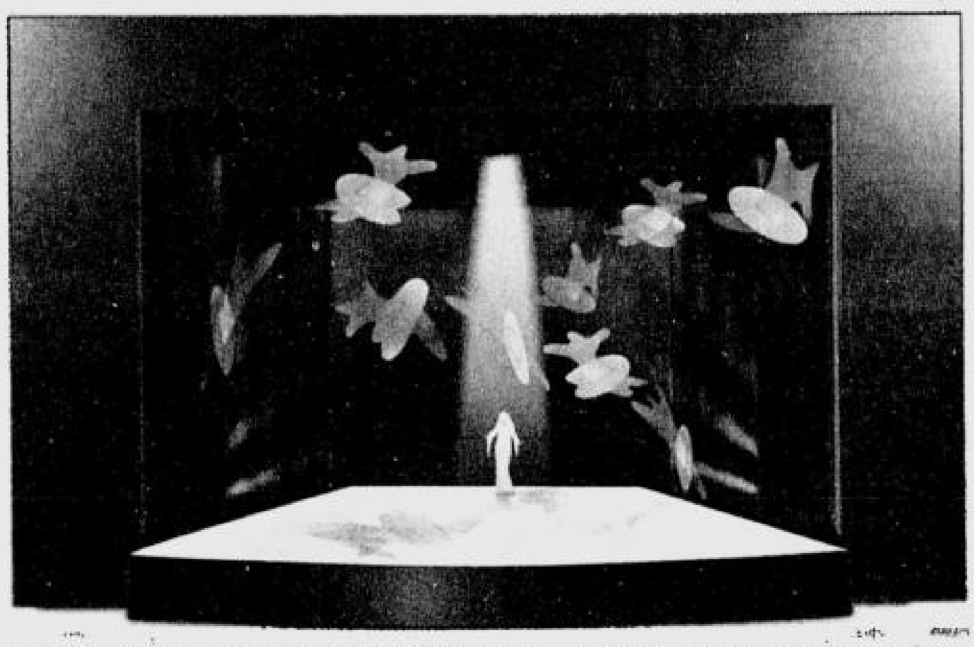
Doonan says everyone is sick of all the sameness in pop culture. Meant not only to inspire and empower readers, "Wacky Chicks" is also Doonan's attempt to correct a societal misstep: our tendency nowadays to idolize only celebrities and people who we perceive as "society." He says: "Shouldn't we expect a bit more from our cultural icons than good looks, the ability to keep their weight down, and a talent for showing up on a movie set on time?"

Though there is a hint of sadness in the tales of fascinating women who have had a string of lovers, who in their old age, live alone with numerous pets and an abundance of clothes and shoes in what sound like very cramped places, one must bear in mind that they have, as Doonan says, "crafted exactly the lives they want."

We don't have to decorate our homes in tin foil or run around wearing slashed spandex, but we have to somehow break from the mold. Baby steps towards non-conformity just means not caring about what other people think and being comfortable by being oneself, even if it means being different.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Dancing in the Light



SCULPTOR Impy Pilapil's plexiglass installations evoke the feeling of looking into one's soul.

ILLUSTRATION BY FREDERICK TUVIERA.

Multi-media concert based on the book, 'Companion of God,' aims to banish fears of the unknown

By Georgina C. Solina
Contributor

IN the world today, there are more negative than positive things that affect us. They assault our state of mind, alarm us, and often give us reason to rage. In order to keep our sanity, we need to see the larger picture, adjust our perspectives so that we may appreciate our journey together as one human family.

This is why Higher Ground Productions exists and journalist Marge Enriquez does her one-woman shows. Last year's "Wings of Soul," based on the book by Dadi Janki, the "World's Most Stable Mind," was a success. Dadi Janki is an international lecturer who has practiced meditation for 67 years. In an experiment, scientists from the Stanford Medical Research Center found her brain waves constantly in the alpha state, a high but stable vibratory level.

Now comes another show inspired by the same author. Directed by Bart Guingona and choreographed by Douglas Nierras, "Dancing in the Light," a multi-media concert, interprets simple and basic truths.

"Dancing in the Light" will attempt to project some of the fascinating aspects of the retrograde planets onto every person in the audience. When the planets move in a retrograde or backward motion, the implication is that man's energies are focused inwards. The astrological chart of this event–7 p.m., July 17, 2003, at OnStage in Greenbelt Mall, Makati City–shows that the most significant planets are those orbiting farthest from our Sun. These are Uranus (sudden change or new ideas), Neptune (mysticism), and Pluto (regeneration). At the designated time, these planets will be in retrograde motion. The cast, crew and the audience will feel they are "in time," and yet "beyond time."

Understanding karma

The concert's text will highlight the law of karma: "We reap what we sow, negative or positive." This law explains why certain things occur to one person and not to others. Understanding karma principles liberates us from anxiety, and makes us aware that whatever is done today creates tomorrow. And to ensure that actions are good and fruitful, it is important to always have the right frame of mind.

Likewise, the text underscores the need to revise our concept of time, which is a gauge of transformation. It has always been presumed that time moves in a straight line, and that the body's death leads to a void. Yet, abundant proof suggests that time really moves in a cycle: the cycle of the day from dawn to dusk, and the cycle of the seasons repeat with absolute consistency and precision.

Accepting the cyclical nature of time and change, and the law that everything new becomes old, enables people to comprehend more fully the disintegration of society today. This time of transition is when the night of human affairs meets the day of the change of consciousness (Pluto). The shift from one cycle into the next brings about extreme and sudden change (Uranus).

Sacred ground

All this sounds like a heavenly spell that has been cast by the forthcoming production, which is charged not only with words of wisdom from a meditator of 67 years but also with the aforementioned cosmic energies.

Ethereal or astral matter always accompanies the expression of retrograde planets particularly Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, which have weightier energies and signify higher development of consciousness. The concert aims to make people understand the real journey of time as their own journey through it.

Some persons may momentarily ignore the words, but it will be difficult for them to disregard the sacred atmosphere which comes along with the message. That Mercury stands on eight degrees Leo in this event chart underscores this, recalling the biblical vision of the "Burning Bush" where God exhorts Moses: "Remove your sandals, you are treading on holy ground!"

Jupiter stands on 21 degrees Leo, symbolic of the keys of resurrection. Intuition and service (Neptune's influence) are the specialties of the artists and sponsors in this production. The service they hope to give that night is to reinstate values.

Pluto retrograde in the sector of friends shows the dancer as a solitary figure, but one who collaborates with people, if only to add color to her ideas. She takes her friendships seriously and personally identifies with their successes and failures. She is a rebel who tries to bridge the gap between high ideals and harsh realities; and yet she has a way of remaining mentally detached.

However, when one acts as a conscience for friends and associates, it can sometimes be misunderstood, and even lead to friction, despite the pure and noble intentions.

Interactive video

According to the concept of the director and choreographer, an interactive video will show what goes on in the spectators' awareness. By watching the video, the audience will momentarily assume the thoughts, desires and wishes of the performer. Meanwhile, onstage, the performer will be really talking to the self.

The influence of retrograde Neptune (illusion) is not easily understood by others, but can be felt. The show is inclined to be mystical, yet it cares little for the externals of orthodox religion.

With regenerative Pluto nearly half of the time in retrograde, subtle transformative energies have been at work on this production. From such a viewpoint comes hope. Transformation must occur in the context of human affairs to bring about the dawn of a New Age. The old must give way to the new. This change process must begin from within the person.

The audience will be made aware of the significance of this time in connection to the bigger picture. Realizing the importance of here and now, people will have less fear caused by the unknown. Only then will they see their own role and be inspired to take charge of their life.

Email the author at solhaus@mindgate.net

For details, call 0916-6244697. "Dancing in the Light" is sponsored by Human, Schwarzwalder, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Metro Magazine, NU 107, NBC, RX 93.1

FEEDBACK

When gossip becomes a bore

I AM a Catholic Charismatic and a lay minister in our parish. I liked the article "Boredom, Gossip, Deadlier Than SARS (Elan, April 26, 2003).

I get irked whenever I hear a host and his colleague of questionable character talking to millions of people on TV about the private lives of other people. Both TV personalities ask embarrassing questions point-blank about their subjects' private lives. I don't know if they read the Bible or believe what it says regarding people who gossip–as they seem to encourage other people to do likewise. Those who see their show might think it is all right to follow their example. That article somewhat touched on this matter. Could you write more about it? You have knowledgeable sources and information that could enlighten your readers on the whys of gossip and how to avoid it.

Dominador Abano

THIS e-mail is a much-delayed reaction to an article titled "Boredom, Gossip, Deadlier than SARS" Initially, I was not interested in it, but when I got to read it I realized how enlightening it was. Many can draw a lot of insight from it. I hope you can feature more articles similar to this and enough of those that hardly contribute to upliftment of people. It was simple but straight to the point. Hoping for more positive articles in the future.

Cristy Aure

Thank you. Our only problem is, we always lack space for relevant materials by seasoned writers.-ED

SATO-JACINTO NUPTIAL

Liezl Hidalgo Jacinto will tie the knot with Yukimura Sato on July 3 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Rev. Msgr. Patricio Hidalgo Lim HP will officiate as the Main Celebrant, with Rev. Fr. Toru Nishimoto as co-celebrant. Principal sponsors are led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Reception will be held at the Manila Peninsula. The bride will wear a bias-cut strapless gown in pure silk, created by Pitoy Moreno. Both bride and groom are residents of New York.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Win back your PayLite purchase with Citibank Cards 'win what you buy' promo

WHAT'S better than paying 0-percent interest for an item purchased on installment?

Getting it for free!

From May 15 to Nov. 15, all Citibank cardholders have the chance to win their purchase when charging the same to the PayLite Installment Plan. Dubbed the "0-percent PayLite Win What You Buy" promotion, Citibank cardholders can instantly win the product or service they availed themselves of via PayLite.

Joining is easy. Simply rush to over 600 participating stores nationwide and charge your purchases worth P3,000 or more to PayLite using your Citibank cards. For every P3,000 spend, you will be given scratch cards depending on your installment term. Say for a P3,000 appliance purchase payable in 6 months, you will receive 6 scratch cards. For the same amount payable in 12 months, you will get 12 scratch cards. So the longer the installment plan, the more scratch cards, and the more chances of winning!

No entry forms

"What makes this promotion exciting for the customer is he or she can find out instantly if he won," related Jenny Lacerna, Citibank vice president. "No need to fill out entry coupons and wait for a raffle draw. This is our way of rewarding cardholders for their continued support to Citibank cards and PayLite."

Each scratch card has four covered panels. Scratch out all four panels to reveal PayLite and win instant prizes such as movie tickets, mouse pads and ball pens. If all four panels show PayLite, you win your purchase--and it's time to celebrate!

Over 50,000 prizes

As many as 140 cardholders will walk away with their purchase—free—during the promotion period. And over 50,000 consolation prizes can be won so you're almost sure to be a winner.

After making a qualified purchase at a "0% PayLite Win What You Buy" participating merchant, head to the redemption booths to get your scratch cards located at the Glorietta G4 Cinema, at the Ayala Center Cebu - ground floor in front of Rustans, Robinsons Place Manila Orosa Atrium, Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby, Level 1 Phase 2 entrance of Shangri-La Plaza and at the Level 2 center railing of Robinsons Galleria.

So what are you waiting for? Look for the "0% PayLite Win What You Buy" sign at participating stores and shop on installment for a chance to get your item or service for free—a value deal only available with PayLite and your Citibank credit card.

As many as 140 cardholders will walk away with their purchase—free—during the promotion period. And over 50,000 consolation prizes can be won, so you're almost sure to be a winner

Simply rush to over 600 participating stores nationwide and charge your purchases worth P3,000 or more to PayLite using your Citibank cards. For every P3,000 spend, you will be given scratch cards depending on your installment term.

It's not just a Credit Card

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Win What You Buy
Available Here!
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Look for this sign at participating stores

It's enjoying 0% interest and getting a chance to win what you buy

Citibank PayLite Installment Plan's 0% interest offer is now in even more stores with the **0%PayLite** Win What You Buy Promo!

- Bigger savings by not having to pay interest and your choice of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments.
- Over 100 chances to win what you buy PLUS over 50,000 instant prizes to be given away.
- Every PayLite purchase at participating stores entitles you to scratch cards. Earn more scratch cards with longer PayLite installment terms.

PayLite now and get a chance to WIN WHAT YOU BUY!

See flyers or log on to www.citibank.com.ph for more details.
Promo period is from May 15, 2003 to November 15, 2003.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1031, Series of 2003.

AYALA CENTER
Customer Service Booth
Glorietta 4 Cinema

ALABANG TOWN
Cinema Lobby

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ground Floor
near Customer Service Booth

Robinsons Galleria
Level 2, Center Railing

Robinsons Place
Orosa Atrium

Shangri-La Plaza
Level 2
(In front of Crossings)

REAL men get facials. Fitness instructor Edmon Aguilar gets a cold marine facial from Discovery Spa.

The Metrosexual

A change in the leather

By Martin Valdes, *Contributor* • Photo by Jun de Leon

"We all need someone to look at us."–Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

THE DENIM is a bit too snug. Standing inside one of the store's cramped fitting rooms, I suck in my gut, fasten the last button, and examine my reflection in the mirror: I like the material, I like the texture, I like the color, I like the style.

I step outside and inform the male attendant that it feels a tad tight. He says my butt looks great in them. In another time, another place, a younger, more insecure version of myself would have promptly introduced my fist to his face, affirming my masculinity with an appropriately heterosexual reaction. Instead, I take another look at myself, mentally agree with the salesman's appraisal, and charge my vanity to Visa.

I'm not gay; I may be "metrosexual."

Dressing better

In 1994, in an article published in The Independent, Mark Simpson coined an earlier term, "metrosexual" to address a phenomenal stage in the evolution of the homo sapien male when he began to openly display tendencies and actions not traditionally attributed to the testosterone-laden gender.

He was dressing better without the help of a female consultant. He was going to the gym religiously without being ordered to do so by a physician. He was having his hair done in parlors and using jargon off Oprah's lexicon. He was expanding his wardrobe to include European shoes, turtleneck jerseys, watches with warranties and an array of sunglasses in every tint, hue and shape to match whatever fashion permutation he may have formulated for the day. And he smelled so damn good! In short, Homer Simpson was beginning to act like Wayland Smithers. Most intriguing of all, this Homer still slept with Marge.

Years later, as this movement gained momentum, Mark Simpson defined metrosexuality with more accuracy in Salon.com. In an article entitled "Meet the Metrosexual," he explained, "The typical metrosexual is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis–because that's where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are. He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object, and pleasure as his sexual preference."

At the core then, he is a narcissist, in love with his own appearance and lifestyle. At one point in the not so distant past, such an obvious display of self-love was invariably characterized as a feminine quality, consequently branding the man as typically homosexual.

But lo and behold, while sporting a gold Cartier on one hand, this new species of male dangled a Heidi Klum lookalike on the other! To emphasize that metrosexuality had nothing to do with which gender warmed one's bed, a further term was created, specifically referring to the straight man who enjoyed regular ablutions in foamy, lavender-scented bubble baths: the metrosexual. **(See pictorial on C-7)**

Toughies, softies

In truth, the metrosexual has been around for a while. History will support this. The Romans demonstrated that men could still be men even when enjoying life's softer touches, such as heated baths perfumed with expensive oils, in between slaughtering a few thousand sacrificial bulls and hordes of Visigoths.

The Greeks emphasized the importance of a healthy body, philosophizing and praising the Olympian physique without necessarily wanting to bugger the model.

The Colonial to Renaissance eras saw a succession of conquerors, monarchs, politicians, poets, writers, citizens from a diverse range of Western nations all sporting wigs, dandy clothing, and kabuki make-up. No one questioned their virility, as these men shaped kingdoms, chopped heads, and wrote sonnets, too.

Back in the '80s, we witnessed purveyors of glam rock and roll–musical terrorists garbed in tight black leather pants barely concealing their weapons of mass distraction–romping around with teased hair and model-girlfriends, and wearing an overdose of Revlon. As Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil famously claimed, "Just because we dress up like women doesn't mean we can't kick your ass."

With metrosexuals, the outfits and extravagance vary in degrees; what remains consistent is their need to be looked at, admired, even loved. As long as they have an audience, they will be smug in their Guccis.

At present, given media and communications' immense power and accessibility, meterosexuality has nearly reached its zenith. Magazines, billboards, reality television, the Internet, cameraphones, digital cameras–with all of these, visual conspiracy stays alive and kicking. Everyone's got an audience, and everybody is part of an audience, everybody knows it. It's like Orson Welles, Aldous Huxley and Hugh Hefner sitting in a pub, collaborating on a new idea. In this brave, new world, Big Brother is watching the alpha male, and he likes it!

Media is responsible for the promotion and dissemination of metrosexuality. It is also both a mirror of current fashions and a standard by which metrosexuals judge themselves. Magazines such as FHM, Maxim and Ralph, notorious for littering their pages with scantily clad women and bawdy articles, also have pages dedicated to "men's essentials," ranging from accessory gizmos and gadgets for the in-crowd, to fragrances and epidermal gel.

Other magazines like GQ and Details caught on to the trend way back and have regularly published male models with suspiciously androgynous features in the latest menswear. Billboards in the biggest cities around the world now portray beautiful men staring wistfully as they stretch out in their Diesel Jeans or Ben Shermans. And who can forget "Marky" Mark Wahlberg showing off a six pack above his Calvin Kleins?

> Modern icons are redefining 'macho' by blurring the lines between hetero and homosexual fantasies

Like a Visa ad

Metrosexuality's symbiosis with media could have been an ad for Visa: it's everywhere you want to be. In a reversal of cultural fashion, androgyny has become the new masculinity. Androgyny is sexy, androgyny is macho, androgyny is cool. A man's ability to cast a wide net and haul in as much fish from the sea, regardless of gender, is beginning to define, almost logically, how good a fisherman he is. Marketing studies have shown that men are becoming much more receptive and willing targets, especially to products of an aesthetic nature. So while the growing trend of metrosexuality gives media something to chew on, it reciprocally provides metrosexuality a medium with which to promote itself. Just examine the modern media star and the vehicle he rides on.

Action movies used to be formulaic: a hulking, steroid-bloated man with very big guns and speaking very bad English would take on evil doers and defeat them as much with explosives as with one-liners, affirming his masculinity with as much blood as his torn denim vest could soak up.

But take a look at the superhero of today's cinema–Batman and Robin, Spider Man, the X-Men, Daredevil, Neo of the Matrix–men who have traded in the big guns for smaller, sleeker weapons, dressed in obscenely tight leather body suits meant to show off sculpted abs and pecs, bulging loins, and buttocks you could crack coconuts on. Even period fantasy/sci-fi films such as "The Lord of the Rings" and the new trilogy of "Star Wars" demonstrate an awareness of the new sexuality. The elves of Middle Earth (voted in an online poll as the sexiest characters in the film) are distinctly androgynous, while Anakin Skywalker uses the Force in a nifty black outfit which accentuates his light saber.

Both sides now

Even off-screen, the media star has become both the artist and the canvas for metrosexuality. David Beckham, soccer player of Madrid Real, is the prototype metrosexual media magnet. He wears sarongs confidently, sports a different hairstyle every week, poses for both gay and straight magazines, has a wardrobe that could clothe Liberia. And he married a Spice Girl. Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, while both still retaining their pants, know the importance of looking good and have revolutionized not only their respective sports, but also what to wear when kicking some ass.

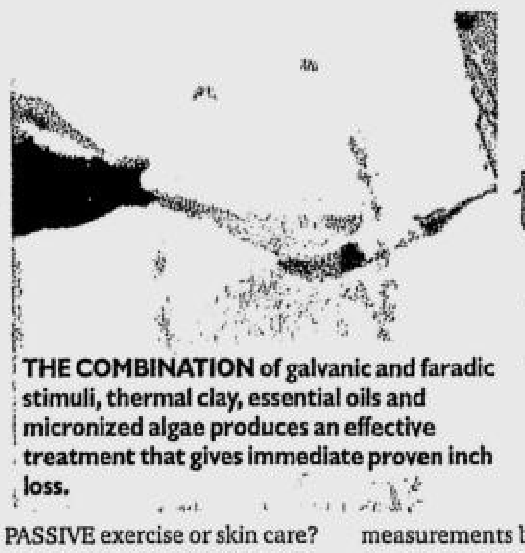
Actors from around the world–from Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp to the local Bench models–are redefining what is macho by blurring the lines between hetero and homosexual fantasies. Musical acts such as Enrique Iglesias, Ricky Martin, Craig David and Lenny Kravitz ooze sexuality that have men in the audience screaming.

So where do we go from here? Is metrosexuality just a fad, a fashionable trend destined to go the way of the dinosaur and grunge rock? Who knows? At this point it is going strong and gaining momentum, it's inertia threatening to carry on for a long time, or at least until the next issue of GQ. Maybe it *is* the next stage in heterosexual male evolution, feeding on admiration glances from both sides of the street. After all, attention is influence, and influence is power. And what about the women? Friedrich Nietzsche once noted that women are a higher type of species than men, which seems to indicate they've known all along that attention is power.

The café is packed as usual. The patrons, mostly men, smoke Peter Stuyvesants while sipping herb tea, a contradiction that seems chic instead of silly. A whiff of Givenchy scents the air. Everybody is wearing those translucent sunglasses you see on Hollywood actors. Everybody is nonchalantly checking out everyone else, and I am no exception.

Between sips of skim cappuccino and glimpses of the latest issue of FHM, I spy a middle-aged backpacker with the most wicked pair of loafers I have seen since Don Johnson graced the screen in "Miami Vice." Skechers, maybe, or Royal Elastics.

The backpacker catches me staring at his feet and, embarrassed, I turn my gaze back to my magazine, which proceeds to graphically instruct me on alternative sexual positions that I should attempt, but only if my health is good. Skechers, for sure.



THE COMBINATION of galvanic and faradic stimuli, thermal clay, essential oils and micronized algae produces an effective treatment that gives immediate proven inch loss.

Ionithermie, the latest word on muscle toning

Photos by Johnny Villena

PASSIVE exercise or skin care?

For dieters who have lost weight but still need to improve their muscle tone, a French chemist has devised a body treatment that has become popular in spas overseas.

Ionithermie enhances blood circulation and eliminates pollutants and toxins including those accumulated through years of caffeine and alcohol use.

Employing a dual-mild stimulus accompanied by electric muscle stimulation, and with the use of thermal clay, essential oils, and micronized algae, the treatment decreases cellulite, improves skin elasticity, boosts overall blood circulation and, in some cases, reduces measurements by two inches after just one session.

How does Ionithermie work?

- Galvanic stimulation uses negative and positive ions to propel active, specialized preparations deep into the skin–deeper than massage or heat can effect.
- Faradic stimulation is done with an electrical apparatus operated by a physiotherapist to heal weak or injured muscles.
- Micronized algae helps remove toxins, nourishes the skin with minerals and improves metabolism.
- Conductive thermal aroma clay mask facilitates the electric and galvanic stimulation and also warms and relaxes the areas it is applied to–arms, abdomen, hips and thighs.
- A range of products improves the lymphatic drainage system and maintains the inch loss.

Procedure

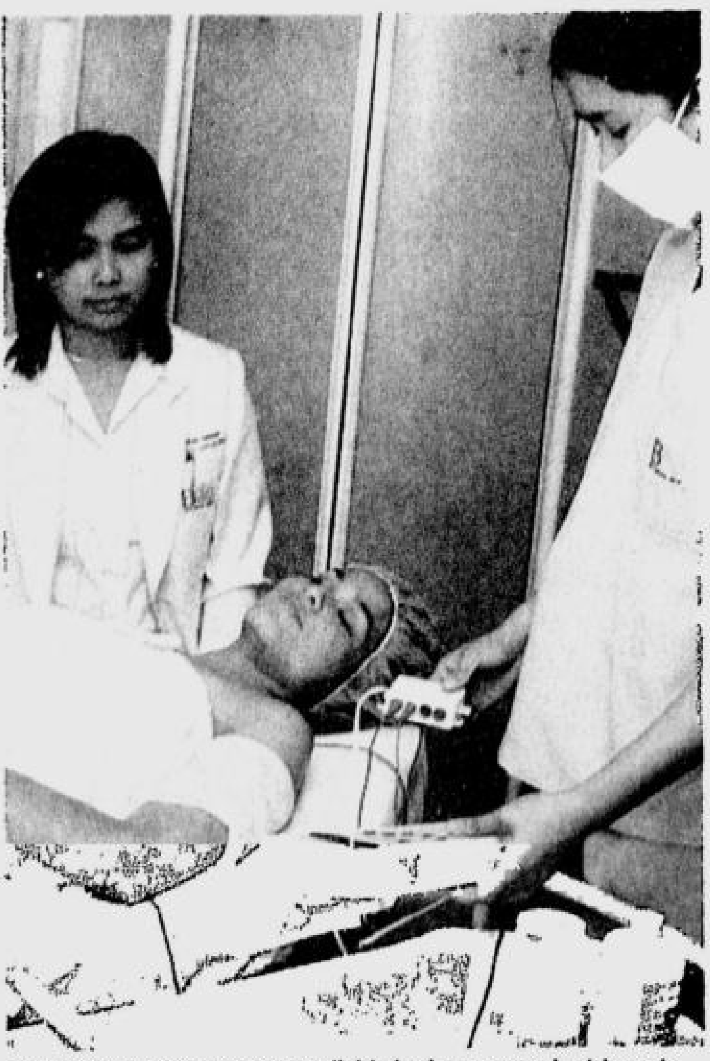
To prepare for the treatment, the body is sloughed with a seaweed scrub and lathered with creams. Then the conductive thermal aroma clay is wrapped on the problem areas. The clay contains special algae such as fucus to induce sweat, and laminaria to stimulate the thyroid gland, which controls metabolism.

To make the most of the ingredients' efficacy, Ionithermie employs therapeutic application of electricity to the body using a passive muscular exerciser, allowing ions to pass through the skin.

This feels like physical therapy with a bed and blanket of clay. One session takes 40 minutes. Improvement is visible after only four sessions, but for maximum results, a home care kit is recommended:

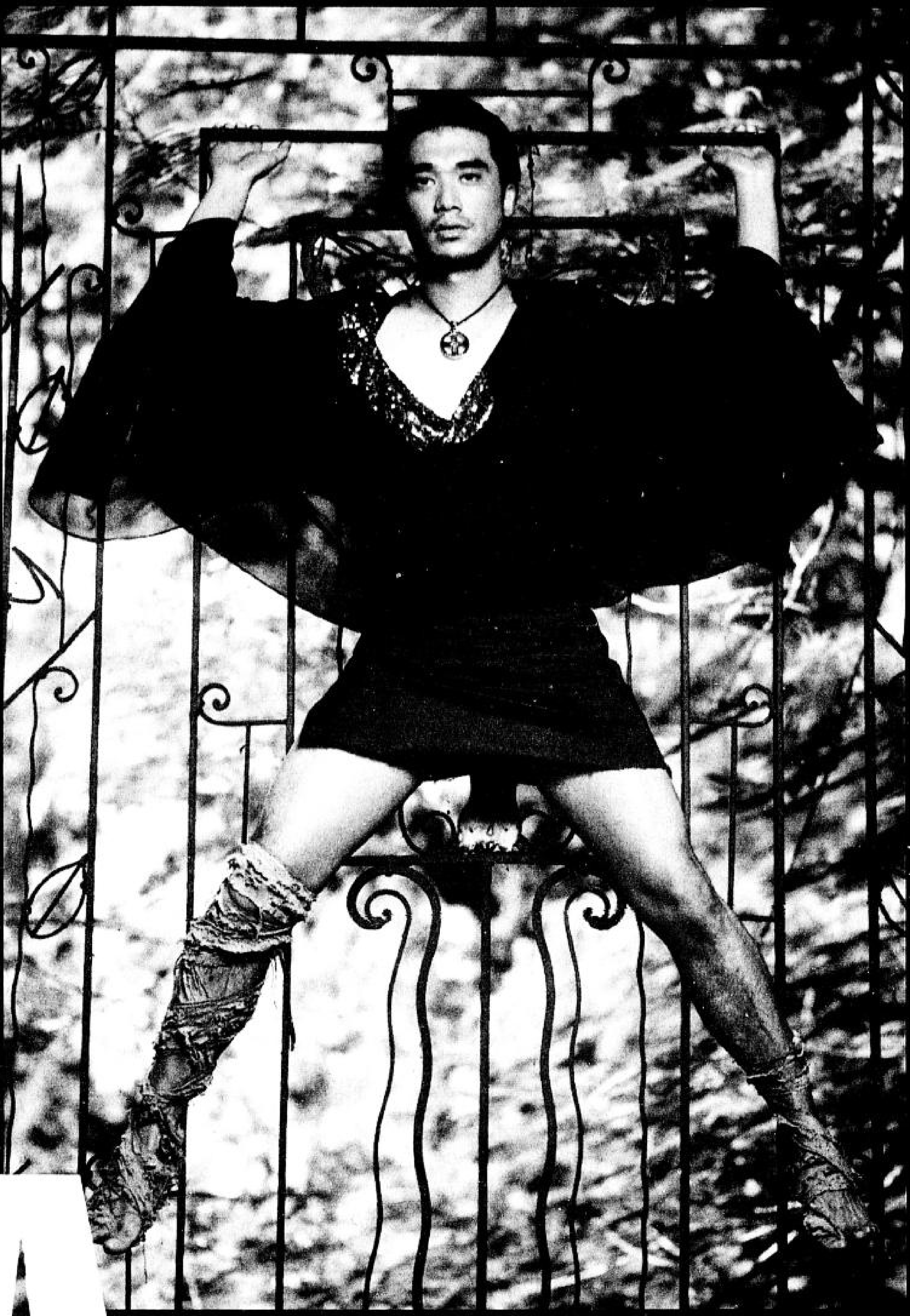
The Les Complexes Biotechniques product range consists of active ingredients that aid the breakdown of fatty deposits, clean and regenerate the skin, and strengthen the cell walls.

Belo Medical Group is the first to bring this revolutionary treatment to the Philippines. The clinic is located at 2501-A West Tower, Tektite Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For details, call 0917-840-9268, 637-3676-7



UNLIKE other treatments available in the country, Ionithermie penetrates deep into the cellular level providing a more effective total body cellulite.

It is sexy! It is macho! And so-o-o cool!

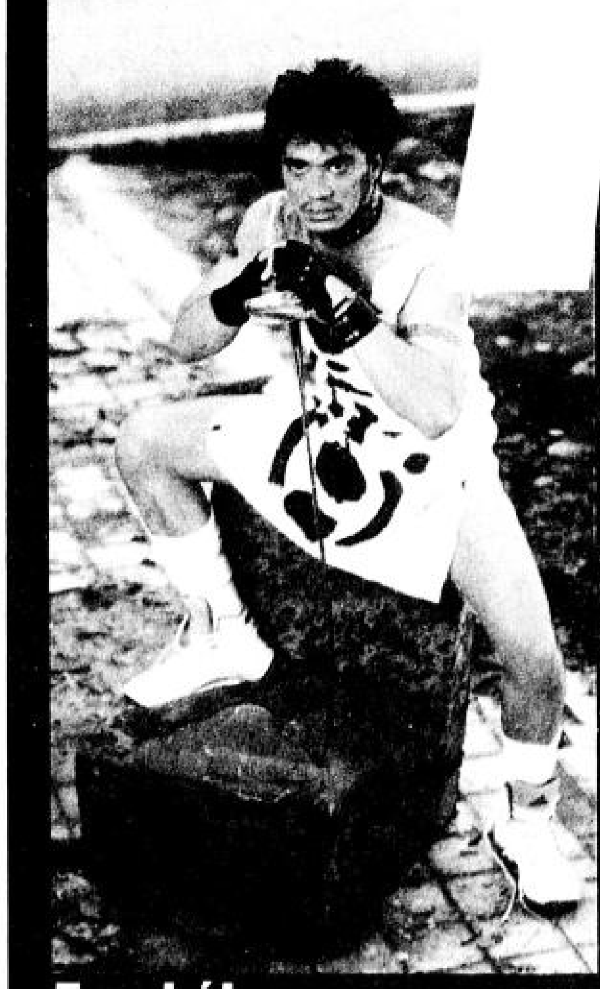


Sweet surrender
Black bat wing top with sequined collar detail and violet miniskirt plus Bulgari XL tondo sun pendant in yellow gold & steel

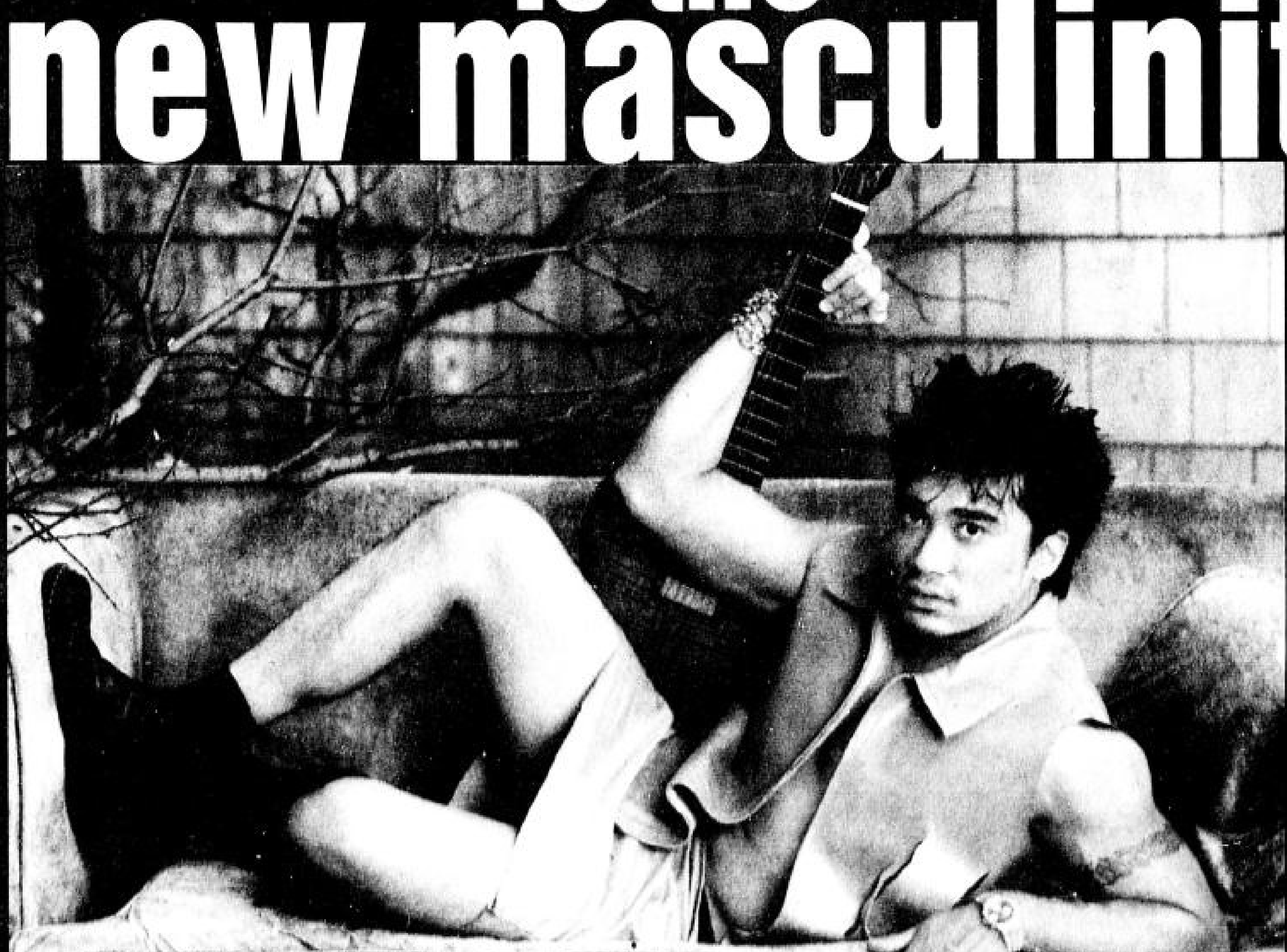
Photographs: Jun de Leon
Pictorial direction: Antonio Salac Santos

MODEL: VICTOR NERI
CLOTHES MADE FOR ELAN BY RHETT EALA
STYLING: MILLET ARZAGA
JEWELRY: BVLGARI
UNDERWEAR: BENCH BODY UNDERWEAR
GROOMING: MIKEE RAYMUNDO OF MAC COSMETICS
SPECIAL THANKS TO: VEANA FORES

Androgyny is the new masculinity



Touché!
Engarde! In fencing shoes and wielding his sword, he wears a white mini with graffiti. Accessories: stylist's own.



Rock me, babe
Victor wears a camel vest and khaki miniskirt plus Bulgari Piramide rings in yellow gold & white gold with semi precious stones & diamonds.

Let's talk

rs gentle fashion.

SATURDAY Spec

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Editor Nestor U. Torre
ditor Edmund L. Sicam

SPEARS. "So over" at only 21 years old?

'Tween' market seeks Britney replacement

By Hope Blackstock

NEW YORK—Wanted: Role model, hip and attractive enough to appeal to 7- to 14-year-olds with increasingly adult tastes.

Caveat

A caveat: Cannot be so sexy or with so much attitude that parents will protest. No drugs, not too much bare flesh and, ideally, the successful candidate will never grow up.

That is the delicate recruiting tightrope being walked by companies in search of young stars to market everything from cosmetics to clothes and cell phones to the increasingly powerful "tween" market.

These kids have greater influence over family buying decisions, more money of their own and a broader range of interests than previous generations. There are also more of them, because many are the grandchildren of baby boomers.

Some marketing estimates put their buying power in the United States alone at $300 billion a year—a lot of money to miss out on if you get the tone of a campaign wrong or go with the wrong role model.

Potential

"The potential is huge for marketers and once they (tweens) obtain more money, it's only going to get bigger," said Cynthia Engelke of Youth Intelligence, a youth marketing research firm in New York City.

It's not that there isn't a wider choice of young stars than ever before, particularly among actresses and singers. For example, the cover of Vanity Fair's latest issue features nine female celebrities under the headline "It's Totally Raining Teens!" The magazine, which usually showcases more mature talent, gushes that, on the cultural and financial fronts, now more than ever, it is prime time for teenagers.

But what worked last year may not work this year. A prime example of that is the fading appeal of pop star Britney Spears among tweens.

Spears quickly went from sassy songstress touting lucrative endorsement deals with Pepsi, AOL and Skechers footwear—and earning $39.2 million in 2002, according to Forbes magazine—to being seen as yesterday's star at the ripe old age of 21. Teenmag.com, the online version of Teen Magazine, said 54 percent of the 10- to 15 age group who responded to a poll in May chose the description "so over" to describe Spears.

Overexposed

Some marketing experts say that Spears was overexposed and subsequently seen as pushing products rather than being creative. Contrary to popular myth, her overtly sexual image may also have contributed to her decline as a role model.

"Tweens began to realize that she's too commercial, not to mention too sexually charged," said Alicia Kolski, vice president of Amp Insights, the tween research arm of Alloy Marketing and Promotions. "Tweens are listening to artists for their talent or skill more so than for what they wear." Parents still have a great influence over tweens and they can often be conservative. "We have them look through magazines and select what they think is for them and what's not," she said.

"Things that are too sexy—they tend to shy away from. They are just not comfortable." Spears and another young pop star Christina Aguilera also illustrate another problem. As teenage stars grow up, they may start to appeal more to an adult market.

Among the most successful promoters to tweens are those who take the audience through their childhood. The most extreme examples of that are the 17-year-old twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, who began their entertainment careers when they were babies. In the process, they have created a multimillion-dollar entertainment and consumer products empire, with estimates of their net worth at $300 million combined.

60 product categories

The Olsens, who have maintained a mostly wholesome image, have their fingers in about 60 product categories, including a fashion and accessories line, a lifestyle magazine, movies, video games, a TV sitcom and fashion dolls.

"Everything was based on what they thought was appropriate," Michael Pagnotta, a spokesman for the Olsens' company Dualstar Entertainment Group said, recalling their decision to avoid shirts that exposed their navels.

Among the stars who might be bets to compete with the Olsens' dominance in the tween market is Hilary Duff, the 15-year-old star of the "Lizzie McGuire" movie and TV series.

Duff not only has the Olsens' natural image, but also her character displays the kind of angst that adolescents can identify with, Engelke said. Duff has her own line of products—Stuff by Hilary Duff, set to hit stores next year, two movies, and the release in September of her debut CD "Metamorphosis." *Reuters*

DUFF. Her TV-film character displays the kind of angst that adolescents can identify with.

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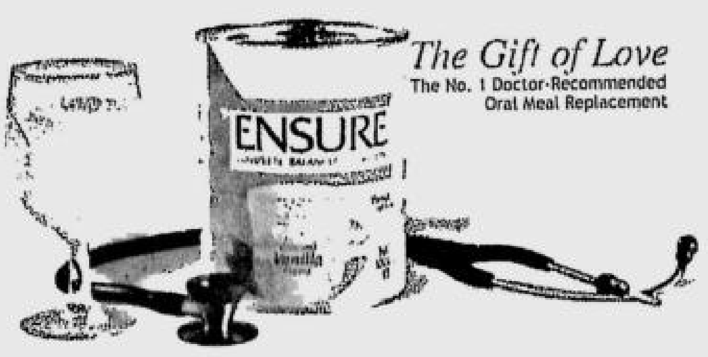

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References. ¹Based on a US Study: Cope, Kathy, "Malnutrition in the Elderly: A National Crisis," Regan K. U.S. Administration on Ageing, Nutrition Screening Initiative, 1993

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 28 - JULY 4

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SAT	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Arriba, Arriba 9:00 Buttercup 9:30 Fillyesta Cinema 10:30 Konkobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 PBA Games 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 14th Asian Games 2002 (Replay) 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office *Laging Naroon Ka* 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kidscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 Showdown 11:00 Iyo Ang Katarungan	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
SUN	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 10:00 Standing Room Only	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atbp. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols *Minsan May Pangarap* 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital tour 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay)	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Overseas Pinoy	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Whattamen 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 9:30 Nuts Entertainment 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Malcolm in the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 CSI 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills 11:00 Kasangga Mo'ng Langit	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDatCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Neste Beach Volleyball 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Fancy Lala 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Just for Laffs 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 Dead Zone 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Kailada Alas 12:00 GMA The Working President	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 X-Men 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Angel 9:00 The Bachelor 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On

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FREE limited edition rewards every month.

Add up the stars monthly for bigger rewards.

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Cindy
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Ringtone
MMS Wallpaper
MMS Wallpaper
Food Magazine
Star Studio Magazine
Star Cinema VCD
Cellphone Callcard
ABS-CBN STUDIO TOURS
ABS-CBN Studio Tours
Movie Card and Gift Certificate

1 As a Club PinoyCentral member, earn stars each time you join text services of PinoyCentral, ABS-CBN, Star Cinema, DZMM and all other text activities sent to **2366**.

2 Exchange stars for **FREE** downloads every month. Plus add monthly earned stars to get even bigger rewards.*

3 **To be a member,** Text CLUB and send to 2366

Open to Globe subscribers only.

CLUB PINOYCENTRAL MECHANICS

REGISTRATION

1. Club PinoyCentral is open to all Globe prepaid and post-paid subscribers. Subscribers can start registering on June 15, 2003.
2. To join, the texter must text **CLUB** and send this to **2366**. He/She will be prompted to answer a trivia question. Answering correctly will make the texter a member of **Club PinoyCentral**.

TO EARN POINTS

3. To earn points/stars, the member simply has to participate in any text activity of ABS-CBN, PinoyCentral, DZMM, Star Records, Star Cinema, ABS-CBN Publishing and all other text activities going through the access number 2366.
4. The star points system is as follows: P2.00/2.50=1 star, P10=4 stars, P15=6 stars, P20=8 stars. For example, for a service costing P15.00, the member earns 6 stars.

MONTHLY INSTANT DOWNLOADS (June 15, 2003 to May 31, 2004)

5. At the end of the month, the texter can exchange his stars for **FREE** instant downloadable rewards.

	30-39 stars	40-49 stars	50 stars and above
MMS-capable handsets	MMS Wallpaper	MMS Premium Wallpaper	Ringtone
Models capable of downloading logos but not MMS products given above	SMS Logo	SMS Logo with your nickname	Ringtone
Models not capable of downloading logos and MMS products	Fortune reading	Inspirational Message	Horoscope reading

*Designs change monthly.

6. To check the number of stars accumulated for the month, text **CLUB STARS** and send to **2366**.
7. The Club will send an alert to all members qualified to receive a reward at the end of the month, together with the redemption process.
8. Every month, the texter starts with 0 points. However, he will still have a record of the stars he has accumulated over the months since he has joined as this can still be exchanged for premium rewards.

PREMIUM REWARDS (beginning September 1, 2003)

9. Stars earned since the member has joined can be exchanged for Premium Rewards, even if these has been used for redeeming Monthly Rewards.
10. *Beginning September 1, 2003, these stars can be exchanged for the following premium rewards:

Stars/Points	Reward
350	Movie Card - Admits 1 Person, 1 Movie. Valid for 1 year
500	ABS-CBN Studio Tour
650	P200 SM Gift Certificate
700	Star Records CD
850	P300 Cellphone call card
1150	StarStudio 6-month subscription
1300	Food Magazine Subscription 6-month subscription
1350	Star Cinema VCD
1430	P500 Cellphone call card

11. Redemption mechanics can be obtained by texting **CLUB PREMIUM** to **2366**.
12. Metro Manila residents can claim their rewards at ABS-CBN Interactive, Inc., 9F ELJ Communications Center, Mother Ignacia, Quezon City. Rewards for provincial winners will be sent via courier.
13. Should any member opt for a representative to claim his/her reward, the representative should bring with him/her an authorization letter from the member, the winner's valid I.D., active cellphone with the SIM card and the representative's I.D. with signature.
14. The valid redemption period for the Premium Rewards is through October 31, 2004. The time point is based on all star points accumulated from date of joining until August 31, 2004.
15. The stars earned by members who have changed their cellphone numbers during the duration of his/her membership will be carried over to his/her new cellphone number provided that the new cellphone number continues to be under the same service provider. Otherwise, the stars earned by texters will go back to zero during a cellphone number change. Members who change their cellphone numbers will not be asked to register again.

PRIVILEGES - Members will get free birthday ringtones on their birthdays. Active members, defined as members who text at least 4X a month, will also get free information alerts twice a month on the latest movies, ringtones, logos and PinoyCentral services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE - Club information can be obtained by texting **CLUB INFO** to **2366**. All other customer queries can be directed to the Club Customer Service Officer through the following Telephone Hotline: Telephone number 415-8766 from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.,

SMS: Messages can be sent through SMS by texting **CLUB HOTLINE <ur message> to 2366** or via email address clubpinoycentral@abs.pinoycentral.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0957, Series of 2003

PinoyCentral

Bringing the best for the mobile Filipino

'Amarcord' screening launches Italian filmfest at CCP

FILM buffs should make it a point to catch the Italian movies being screened twice every month from July to December 2003. The cinematic feast commences on July 1, the date when Italy assumes the Presidency of the European Union.

To celebrate the event, the festival will have an invitational launch on July 1 at the CCP Little Theater with its opening film, Federico Fellini's "Amarcord" (1974).

Thereafter, the films will be screened at the CCP Dream Theater. The movies are in Italian with English subtitles. Admission is free, thanks to the support of cinema-savvy sponsors like Rustan's Supermarket, Ralph's Wines and Spirits, Cibo and San Miguel Corp.

Other filmfest treats: Aug. 5, Luchino Visconti's "Ludwig II" (1973), winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Sept. 2, Giani Amelio's "The Way We Laughed" (1998), which won the Gold Lion at the Venice filmfest.

Oct. 14, Giuseppe Piccioni's "Not of This World" (1999). Nov. 11, Giuseppe Tornato's "The Legend of 1990" (1998), winner of the European Film Award. And Dec. 2, Aldo, Giovanni and Giacomo's "Such Is Life."

"Amarcord" is one of the most honored films of the '70s. The title means "I Remember" in the dialect of Fellini's native Romagna. Through the story of Titta, a boy on the brink of manhood, Fellini looks back on his own youth with affection and humor.

The film is peopled by colorful personalities: Titta's bickering parents, a mad uncle, an egotistical theater owner, and the town's ditzy beautician, who's constantly in search of her "Gary Cooper."

It is hoped that the "ongoing" Italian Film Festival will effect a deeper understanding and appreciation of Italian culture, and will enhance cultural cooperation between Italy and the Philippines.

DEL TORRO. Plays a renegade soldier in new chase film.

'The Hunted'

The new chase movie, "The Hunted," pits two Oscar winners, Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio del Toro, against each other.

After two hunters are killed in the Oregon woods, the FBI calls in Jones' character to track down the killer. Reluctant to be pulled out of retirement, he relents after some photographs reveal that the murderer may be one of the men he's trained to kill.

As for Benicio del Toro, he plays a renegade soldier on the loose, a prime suspect in the case. The final battle between mentor and protégé culminates in deadly hand-to-hand combat.

'Four from Canada'

The Canadian Embassy, NCCA and CCP are presenting "Four from Canada," a festival of contemporary Canadian movies, which opens with a special screening at the CCP's Dream Theater on July 3 of the acclaimed film, "Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner" (2001), by Zacharias Kunuk.

"Atanarjuat" is Canada's first feature film written produced, directed and acted in by Inuit. An exciting action thriller set in ancient Igloolik, the film unfolds as a life-threatening struggle between powerful natural and supernatural characters.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"AMARCORD." July 1 screening at the Little Theater.

'Heaven Sent'

Acoustic singer Nina stars in her first major concert "Heaven Sent" at 8 tonight at Music Museum. Also performing are the Akafellas, Jimmy Bondoc, Essence, Retrospect and Aiza Seguerra.

New 'Klasmeyts' cast members

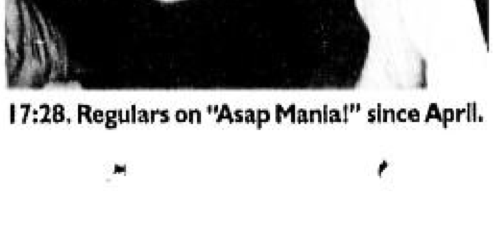
ABS-CBN's Wednesday night gag show "Klasmeyts" welcomes three new regular cast members: Dustin Reyes, JM Rodriguez and Paolo Paraiso.

Paolo and Dustin join "Klasmeyts" fresh from being launched as members of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 11. JM, a Studio 23 VJ, finally becomes a full-fledged cast member. He first gained prominence as Mark in the Philippine stage production of "Rent."

17:28 live

Jonard Yanzon, Chino Alfonso, Gian Magdangal and Joaquin Valdes of the fast-rising group 17:28 have a lot to be thankful for.

'AMARCORD'/ D3



17:28. Regulars on "Asap Mania!" since April.

Spielberg's 'Taken' premieres July 6

By Rica Arevalo

WHO believes that there are other life forms on other planets? Can aliens abduct human beings? What is the mystery behind the crop circles?

Questions

These are some of the questions that will be answered by the 20-hour science fiction mini series, "Taken." The genius behind this production is none other than producer and director Steven Spielberg ("E.T.," "A.I.," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind").

"Taken" combines the stories of three families, the Crawfords, the Keys and the Clarkes, and their important role in the history of alien abduction in the last 50 years. The 10 feature-length episodes are narrated by seven-year-old Allie (Dakota Fanning). The story begins with Russell Keys' encounter with glowing UFOs while on a bomber mission during WWII.

Paranormal psychologist Jaime Licauco shares, "I believe in extra-terrestrial beings. I have talked to at least five persons who have been abducted or taken."

He adds, "Steven Spielberg is a filmmaker whose sci-fi films about alien encounters are more science than fiction. 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' resonates with us on an inner level. We know that it is true."

Special effects

Don Escudero, a production designer and director says, "I have been a fan of science fiction in literature and films ever since I was in grade school. Peque Gallaga and I developed an interest in making films about Filipino mythological creatures like *tiyanak*. Later, we were able to use computers and special effects to make those unreal things real."

SPIELBERG. His sci-fi films about alien encounters are more science than fiction.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines' Eva Mari Salvador shares, "We shall now have a glimpse of the imagination of film and video making. As we try to unravel the mysteries of our universe, we may see how a director and production designer can vivify how we conceive our world."

Star Movies has conducted a poll in Asia that reveals that nine out of 10 people believe aliens exist, and approximately one in two of those polled believe in alien abduction.

Mysteries

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Association (Pagasa) formed an eight-man team in 1996 to investigate UFO sightings and other alien-related mysteries. Elmor Escosa, who is part of the astronomical team says, "We believe that another life form will be coming from the stars."

Star Movies' Laura Cosinjuen says, "Steven Spielberg really looks into different aspects of life. Spielberg is the best visual effects maker, and a very good storyteller."

It is hoped that we stay glued to our television sets watching character-driven stories about aliens, as we're "taken" for 20 hours of sci-fi entertainment, starting at 9 p.m. on July 6.

'Amarcord' screening . . .

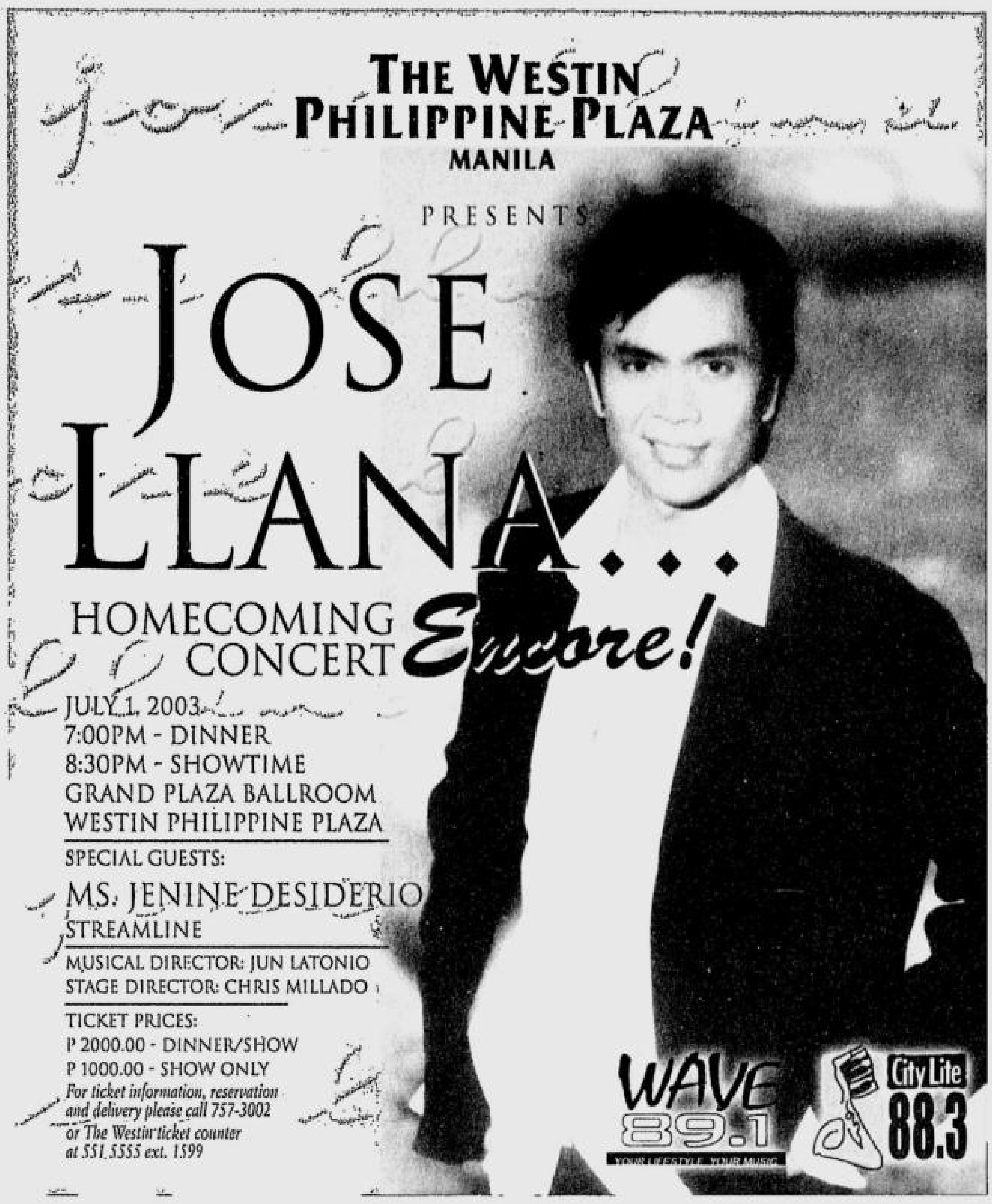
From page D2

Since April, they've been regulars on "Asap Mania!" Their latest single "Come Breathe Me" has topped the request list of Wave 89.1 and RX 93.1. The music video of the song, shot by Avid Liongoren, is causing quite a stir.

'Hip 26' turns one

Monster Radio's RX 93.1 Sunday programming, "Hip 26," 26 hours of slamming R&B and rap music beginning at 10 p.m., recently marked its first anniversary with a hip party at Club V, Mile Long Arcade, Makati.

Performers included Ginn, Earshot, Sun Valley Crew, and Legit Misfitz. "93 Flava" hosts Rico Robles and CJ Rodriguez gave contestants in the freestyle rap contest a sample of rapping. Other highlights included ledge dancing, a beer-drinking contest and prizes handed out by "The Stretch" DJs Boom and Francesca.



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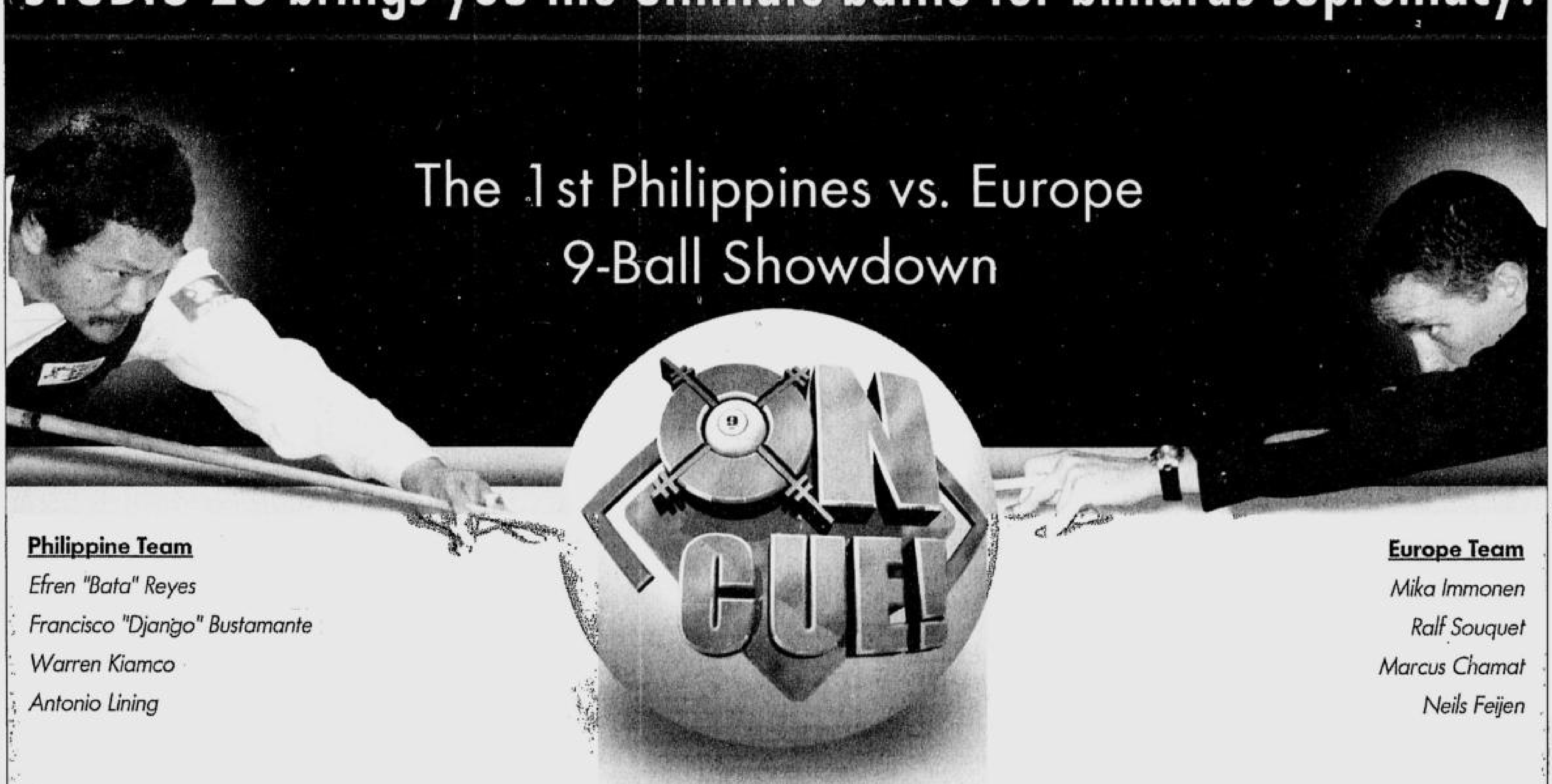

The 1st Philippines vs. Europe
9-Ball Showdown
ON CUE!

Philippine Team
Efren "Bata" Reyes
Francisco "Django" Bustamante
Warren Kiamco
Antonio Lining

Europe Team
Mika Immonen
Ralf Souquet
Marcus Chamat
Neils Feijen

Who will emerge victorious in this historic face-off between the world's best cue artists?

ELIMINATION ROUND [race to 7]

July 2, Wed LIVE
6:00 - 7:00 pm WARREN KIAMCO VS. RALF SOUQUET
7:00 - 8:00 pm EFREN REYES VS. MARCUS CHAMAT

Delayed Telecast
10:30 -11:30 pm ANTONIO LINING VS. MIKÀ IMMONEN
11:30 - 12:30 pm FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE VS. NIELS FEIJEN

July 3, Thu LIVE
2:00 - 3:00 pm FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE VS. MARCUS CHAMAT
3:00 - 4:00 pm EFREN REYES VS. NIELS FEIJEN
4:00 - 5:00 pm ANTONIO LINING VS. RALF SOUQUET
5:00 - 6:00 pm WARREN KIAMCO VS. MIKA IMMONEN
6:00 - 7:00 pm EFREN REYES VS. RALF SOUQUET
7:00 - 8:00 pm FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE VS. MIKA IMMONEN

July 3, Thu
Delayed Telecast
10:30 - 11:30 pm WARREN KIAMCO VS. MARCUS CHAMAT
11:30 PM - 12:30 am ANTONIO LINING VS. NIELS FEIJEN

July 4, Fri LIVE
6:00 - 7:00 pm ANTONIO LINING VS. MARCUS CHAMAT
7:00 - 8:00 pm EFREN REYES VS. MIKA IMMONEN

Delayed Telecast
11:30 pm - 12:30 am FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE VS. RALF SOUQUET
12:30 - 1:30 am WARREN KIAMCO VS. NIELS FEIJEN

SEMIFINALS [race TO 11] on July 5, Sat LIVE
4:00 - 6:00 pm FILIPINO # 1 VS. EUROPEAN # 2
6:00 - 8:00 pm EUROPEAN # 1 VS. FILIPINO # 2

FINALS on July 6, Sun LIVE
Battle for third place (race to 11)
4:00 - 6:00 pm NON-WINNER # 1 VS. NON-WINNER # 2

CHAMPIONSHIP (race to 13)
6:00 - 8:00 pm WINNER # 1 VS. WINNER # 2

Watch the games LIVE on STUDIO 23

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL TDHROTTLE	1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	Art Film 1 PUNCH DRUNK LOVE (Exclusive) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30 10:50	THX 1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
2 HULK	2 HULK	2 HULK 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:55 3:15 5:35 10:15	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
3 ANG TANGING INA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 12:55 5:35 10:15	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ADAPTATION 1:20 3:50	3 HULK
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL TDHROTTLE	4 ADAPTATION		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40 12:00	4 ANG TANGING INA
	5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HULK 12:40 3:15 5:50 8:25 11:00	5 ADAPTATION
	6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE			
	7 HULK			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) ADAPTATION
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
10 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

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4 (SDDS) THE HULK
5 (DTS) THE HULK
6 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7 ANG TANGING INA

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

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2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 KAPIT BAHAY
3 (DTS) THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DTS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DTS) THE HULK
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 SANIB
3 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

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2 HOW TO LOST A GUY IN TEN DAYS
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4 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) THE HULK
2 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS) TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
4 HE HULK

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

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2 KAPIT BAHAY
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4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 DAYO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 THE HULK
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 SANIB

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 SANIB
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 THE HULK

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

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2 THE HULK
3 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 AGENT CODY BANK
3 THE HULK
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-6001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 THE HULK
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 THE HULK
3 (DOLBY) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 THE HULK

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Filinvest - Alabang

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4 ANG TANGING INA
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 HULK
7 SANIB
8 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 HULK
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10 SANIB

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULK
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
9 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11 DARKNESS FALLS
12 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5 ADAPTATION
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 SANIB
11 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
12 HULK

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 ADAPTATION
6 MATRIX RELOADED
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11 SANIB
12 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 HULK
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 ADAPTATION
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 HULK
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 SANIB
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 HULK
9 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
10 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 DARKNESS FALLS
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 CLOSED
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 CLOSED
8 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 HULK
4 HIRAM
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 RING 0

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 HULK
4 ANG TANGING INA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT

SM CITY DAVAO

2978998

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 HULK
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10:15 FS/10:45 MF/1:05/3:25/5:45/8:05
9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:15 END

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3 ADAPTATION
4 HULK
5 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Metro East - Marcos hway

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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 HULK
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 HULK
6 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
8 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Novaliches

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1 HULK
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 HULK
7 ANG TANGING INA
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4 HULING BIRHEN

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2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
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4 REAL CAN CUN
5 HULK
6 RING 0

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2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 HULK
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

Sta. Rosa Laguna

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1 HULK
2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 BIGAY HILIG
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Bacolod

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1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 BIGAY HILIG
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 FRIDA
6 REAL CAN CUN

Iloilo

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2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULK
4 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK
6 HIRAM

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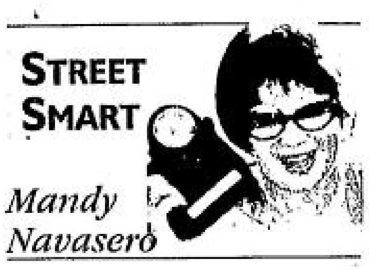
Filling their quota for helping the needy



STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THIS is exactly what members of this unique club does: they commit themselves totally to helping people in various situations of need.

Service and friendship

The club is Quota International Inc. "Quota" is a Latin word which means "share." Quota International Inc. is a worldwide organization of service and friendship based in Washington DC. It was founded by Wanda Frey Joiner in 1919.

Today, hundreds of Quota clubs exist in 15 countries throughout the world. Quota International of Manila was chartered in 1976 with Rose Lamb Sobrepena as charter president. There are now 12 Quota clubs in the country.

In turn, Quota International of Manila South (QIMS) was chartered on Feb. 27, 1993 with 22 members. Since then, QIMS has embarked on several projects for the hearing impaired, disadvantaged women and children, and the disabled.

One outstanding project of QIMS is raising cancer awareness as well as helping fund the refurbishing and finishing of an ambulatory room at the PGH for the use of indigent cancer patients.

Best deal in town

Meanwhile, the Association of Former Flight Attedants of Philippine Airlines will join the Grand Reunion 2003 of ex-flight attendants based worldwide on Labor Day weekend from Aug. 29 to 31 at the San Diego Mariott Hotel & Marina, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, California. A fee of $60 for three days at the Mariott is the best deal in town arranged by California based ex -F/As.

QUOTA International Inc. officers (from left): Emilie L. Simon, Susan C. Miranda, Joselina A. Africa, Medy G. Alparce, Cossette A. de Castro, Tess T. Gonzales, Dory D. Ripalda, and Teena R. Tinsay.

The Affap delegation, headed by its president, Tita Meneses-Trillo, includes Nena Jones, Greta Soriano-Lauron, Cristy Romero-Altura, Avelyn Gimenez-Jahns, Chari La'O-Bagatsing, Mandy Navasero, Carmen Laman-Miciano, Ernesto Laman, Remy Milan-de las Alas, Marilou Ruiz-Llamas, Lina Trasmonte-Cuna, Leni Veloso-Reyes, Beth Labayen, Carmen Dreyfuss, Portia Parcon-Koelman, May Hermosisima, and Susan Tabisaura-Gonzales.

Call Cristy at 842-4142 or 842-4066, Tita at 894-1371 to 72, or Mandy at 522-1905 or 522-5189.

The Affap Foundation scholar for school year 2003-2004 is Maria Cecilia A. Salcedo, 20, the pretty daughter of a former flight attendant. Cecyle is taking up a four-semester vocational course at the Asian Institute of Health Care (accredited by Tesda).

The Affap Foundation also helps three elderly former F/As. Good Samaritans who would like to sponsor children's vocational education may call Mandy at 522-5189 or 522-1905.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE HULK PG13 1:00,4:00, 7:00,10:00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	ADAPTATION PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00
CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15,7:35,9:55	THE HULK PG13 12:00,3:00, 6:00,9:00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

New show, old format

By Noelani Torre

VELASQUEZ. Hosts "Search for a Star" singing tilt.

THERE'S nothing much that differentiates GMA's "Search for a Star" from "Star for a Night," its earlier incarnation. We were able to catch the first "Search for a Star" show and it's practically identical.

Changes

The only things different about it are the set and the logo. We guess the network didn't want to interfere with a good thing. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, right? Still, it would have been better if they'd made changes, even minor ones. Then it wouldn't have seemed as though they were merely picking up the other network's cast-off.

Since GMA didn't change much, we still have that segment where they "surprise" their chosen contestants with the news that they have made it to the show.

There were only three contestants in the first show, none of whom was particularly outstanding.

Marielle Agos seemed to be the epitome of the ambitious star-wannabe. She belted away throughout her piece in a style that can be best described as *pasabit-sabit a la* Mariah Carey—except that in our contestant's case, she really did make *sabit*. It was a shame, really, as she had a decent voice.

The second contestant, John Michael Marcia fared better in our estimation with his smooth voice and natural, non-ululating singing style.

Lows

However, his performance also had its lows—which occurred, ironically enough, when he was trying to hit his highs. His voice broke more than once. The poor guy may have been felled by over-rehearsing.

Still, he was our personal choice, rather than the actual winner, contestant number three, who gave an unexceptional performance. Kristel Bullio sang the Sharon Cuneta classic "Bituing Walang Ningning," not really a vocally challenging song. We were also aggravated by her fervid gesturing. It was stilted, looked put-on, and contributed nothing to the success of her performance.

Nevertheless, the judges declared her the winner—probably more for her age (14) and sob story than for actual talent. We understand their motive, though it also frustrates us. It's a singing contest, after all. We ought to judge the performance, period.

The judges for this episode were Arsi Baltazar, Rico J. Puno, and Nina. The first is apparently a regular, and is also involved in preshow judging. The last two added greater credibility, as they're singers as well.

Platitudes

As in "Star for a Night," the judges murmured platitudes and complimented whatever they could praise in the performer and his or her performance. Criticisms, when there were any, were wrapped in lots of cotton wool.

Rico J's risqué comments were amusing, however, and his joke about contestant number three's shoes was right on the mark. They were, to put it mildly, unsuitable. They looked like beach flip-flops. It's probably not her fault, because shows have wardrobe people who ought to know the difference between a flip-flop and an evening slipper.

That's a minor quibble, however. Oh, there's one element of "Star for a Night" that, happily, "Search for a Star" didn't retain (in the first show, anyway)—the back-up dancers. In the previous show, they were constant visual irritants.

But then, if you liked "Star for a Night," then you'll like "Search for a Star" as well, because it's really just the same show—even without those frenetic dancers.

Aapaw ang puso n'yo sa saya!

Mga Kapuso ninyong Artista at Ka-balita...
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para sa

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Tonight
PART I - June 28, Saturday 10:00 PM
Tomorrow
PART II - June 29, Sunday 9:30 PM

Very Very Kuwela...
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GMA
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Araneta Center
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	TANGING INA
Ali 2	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
Ali 3	THE HULK
Ali 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
Ali 5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
Ali 6	THE HULK
Ali 7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

ARANETA COLISEUM

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JUNE 30	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JULY 5	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JULY 6	PBA GAMES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
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11:00, 1:10, 3:20,
5:30, 7:40, 9:50
PG13

CINEMA 2 **THE HULK**
1:15, 4:00,
6:45, 9:30
PG13

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GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm, Greenbelt 1, Punchdrunk Love (Adam Sandler) on June 18 to July 1

Coffee club/discussion: June 18, 7pm at Cinema 2, Greenbelt 1

Watch the series of MONOLOGUES with Epi Quizon, Angel Aquino and Pinky Amador and piece these stories together.

GREENBELT 1 **Monologues and MAGIC** June 18, 7 pm at the Cafe Row
June 25, 7 pm at Delifrance Area,
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GREENBELT 3 **Monologues and THEATER DUETS** July 3, 7 pm

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
B	SANIB
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	SANIB
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	HULK
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	AGENT CODY BANKS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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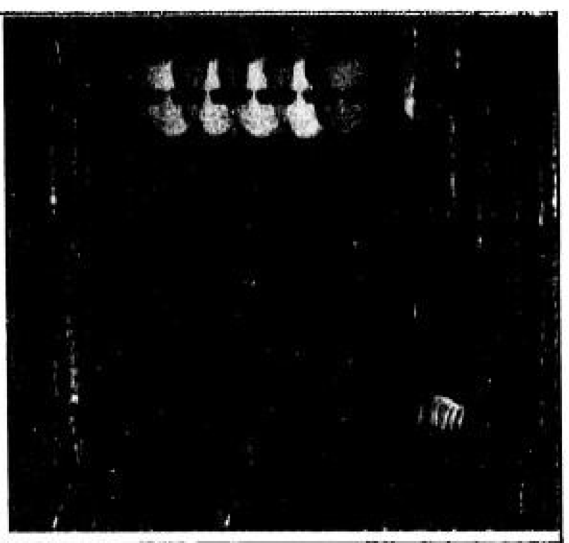

Onstage

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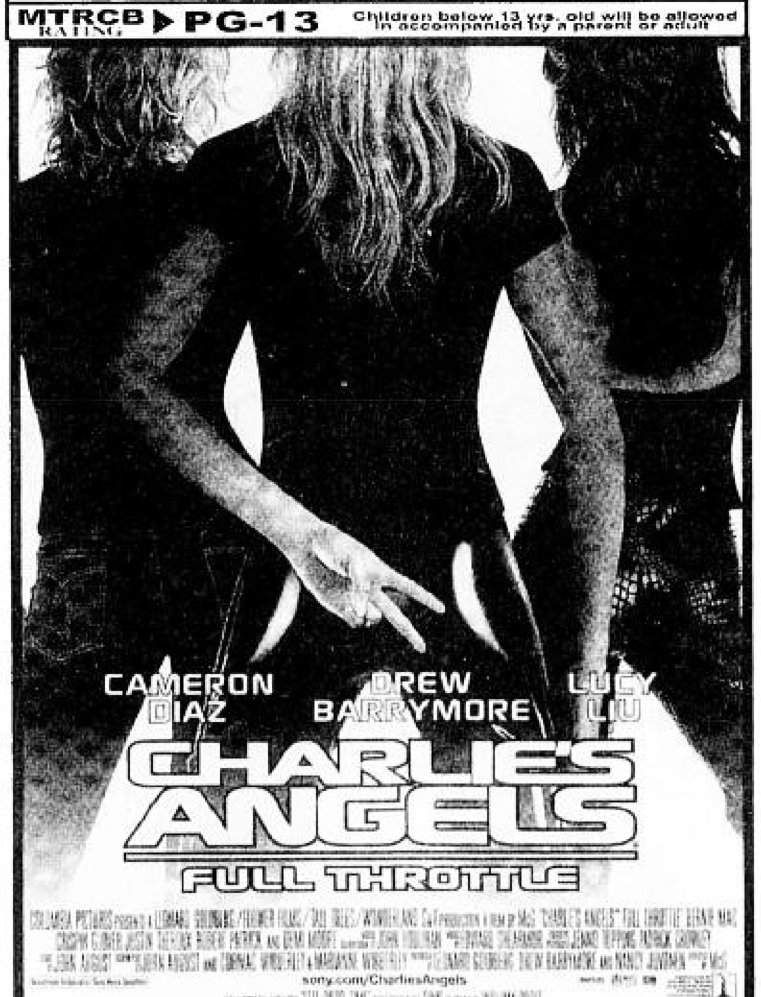

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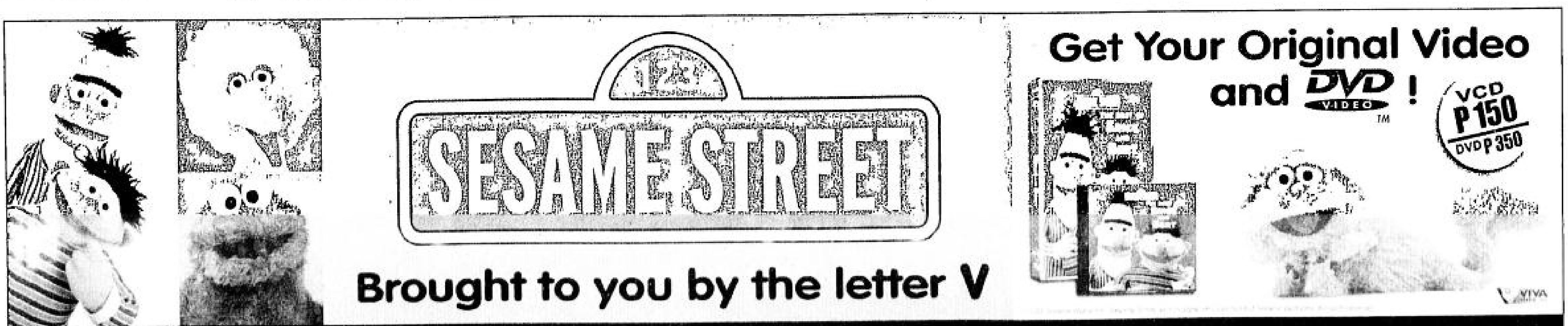

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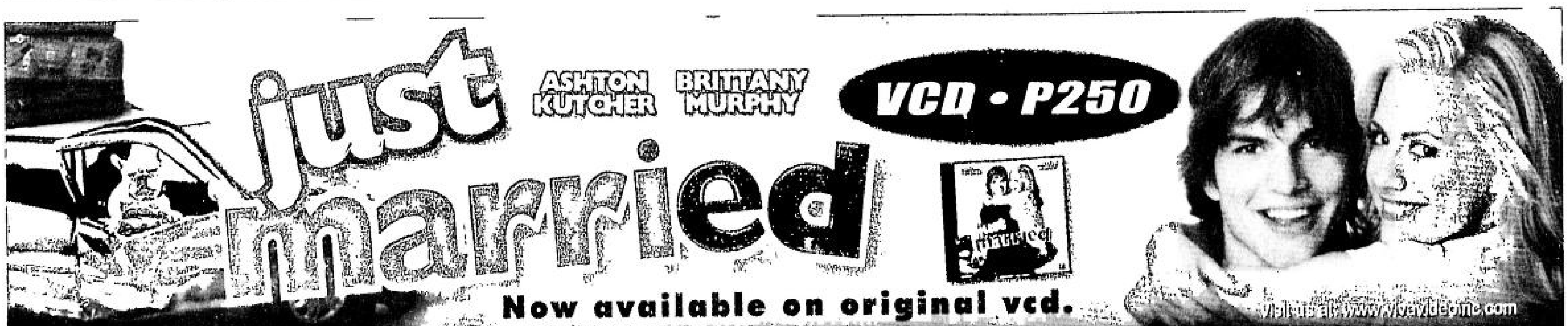

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VIVA

'Probe Team' marks 16th year with vending challenge

By Nestor U. Torre

WE caught the second part of "The Probe Team's" 16th anniversary special on Channel 7 last June 17, and generally enjoyed watching the docu-magazine's hosts trying to beat each other as street vendors.

CHECHE Lazaro and JM Cobarrubias smilingly extol the wonderful properties of— "Baluuuuut!"

Easier to take

This was easier to take than last year's anniversary challenge, which required the hosts to compete in an excessively grueling three-day survival challenge on Samal island.

Things went more chummily this time around, as anniversary "bonding" experiences are supposed to do. The only sour note was struck when one of the younger hosts smarted at an imagined insult, burst into tears, and generally carried on like a peevish brat.

Later, she apologized for her teary tantrum, attributing it to frayed nerves, exhaustion, hunger, and perhaps her lousy biorhythm—everything except her lack of self-possession.

But that sour moment came and went soon enough, so viewers could focus on the vending contest's more upbeat aspects.

Three teams

The hosts were divided into three teams—Team Extreme (Cheche Lazaro and JM Cobarrubias), Love Team (Bernadette Sembrano and Robert Alejandro), and Team Sugod (Love Añover and Eliza Zamora).

The winning team would be the one that could make the most money from selling *halo-halo* in Marikina City, *pandesal* in Mandaluyong, Marikina shoes along Edsa, and *balut* at Eastwood City, Libis.

They had to do so with no help from anybody, and they had to use only public transportation to get from place to place. An additional requirement for the final selling tilt at Eastwood City: they were limited to using only English to extol the wonderful properties of the *balut* eggs they were pushing.

Edge

Of course, their celebrity or semi-celebrity status, and the TV cameras recording what they were doing, gave the six hosts an edge over "ordinary" vendors. But each team still had to work itself ragged from morning till night to make sure that it wouldn't be completely overwhelmed by the competition.

In the end, however, it wasn't all that important which team won. Aside from the challenge's bonding effect, it was most useful for revealing each host's true character, as opposed to his or her on-cam image and projection.

There's nothing like pushing people to the limit to get them to lower their guard and behave as they do in private.

Chores

Having seen the hosts go through their hectic vending chores on the show's anniversary challenge, we must say that we're glad that we don't have a couple of them for relatives.

On the positive side, we were impressed with the way that Cheche kept her cool and didn't ask for special consideration throughout the demanding challenge. She could have, since she was the senior host and Probe's boss lady, but she didn't, and chose to "suffer" along with the younger hosts.

We also liked the way that Robert and JM maintained their good cheer throughout the competition. Unlike some others, they knew what the challenge was about—and what it wasn't.

All best to "The Probe Team" on the start of its 17th telecasting year!

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John Mayer's music inspires fans of all ages

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A this week:

From Lisa Santos of Project 4, QC, **"I would appreciate it if you could feature good-looking young singer John Mayer. I enjoy his songs and would like to know more about pop music's talented hunk of the moment."**

On the US morning show, "Good Day Live," Stevie Wonder was asked who his current favorite artist is. The legendary superstar smiled and started singing, "We got the afternoon. We got this room for two. One thing I've left to do, discover me discovering you."

Lyrics

The lyrics come from the chart-topping "Your Body is A Wonderland" by John Mayer, whose music has been described by critics as "Duncan Sheik meets Dave Matthews."

His husky voice blends well with his sound—melodic, groovy and hip. But that's not the only thing going for Mayer: His charm, razor-sharp wit and playful sarcasm are undeniable. And it doesn't hurt that this lanky six-footer is also gifted with "cover boy" looks.

But John Mayer never held a guitar until he was 13 years old. When he heard the music of blues artist Stevie Ray Vaughn, he badgered his dad (a high school principal) into buying him a guitar. Two years later, he was already doing solo turns with his guitar in local clubs.

Sensation

The second of three siblings, this 25-year-old guitar and songwriting sensation grew up in a close-knit family. At 19, they sent him to Boston's Berklee School of Music, but soon decided he was meant for "playing music, not studying it." So he dropped out and moved to Atlanta, where he hooked up with the area's club circuit and began building a loyal fan base.

In 1999, he cut his independent CD, "Inside Wants Out," to sell copies at his gigs. This recording offers unplugged, solo guitar vocals of his hits, "No Such Thing," "Neon," and "My Stupid Mouth," among others.

By the time he met producer John Alagia (Dave Matthews, Ben Folds Five), he had been touring for two years and had accumulated fans by word of mouth and through the Internet.

Additional track

Shortly after the release of "Inside Wants Out," he started recording his first studio album, "Room For Squares," released in 2001 as an indie recording. Four months after, sensing its tremendous record sales, Columbia re-released it with an additional track, "3x5."

This merited a landmark review from Rolling Stone that December, which recommended it for being "likeable, accessible, smart, affecting, a travelogue of discovery." By then, his fans already knew this, and John Mayer broke through.

Fast-forward to 2003. "Room For Square" has surpassed the two million mark of record sales, and John walked away with Grammy's 2002 Best Male Pop Vocal Performance (besting pop stars Craig David, Elton John and Sting).

As for his personal life, nothing much is written about it except that he has dated Jennifer Love Hewitt. He brought his brother, Ben (prominently immortalized in his song "83"), to the Grammys instead of a date, explaining, "Why should I waste my ticket on some chick?" Ouch!

Fantasy duet

He reveals that his fantasy duet is with Sarah McLachlan. He elaborates, "Just the guitar, piano, and our voices . . . and our child. Hahaha." Unlike so many rock and roll artists, Mayer is a firm believer in commitment (he says relationships "take years to get good").

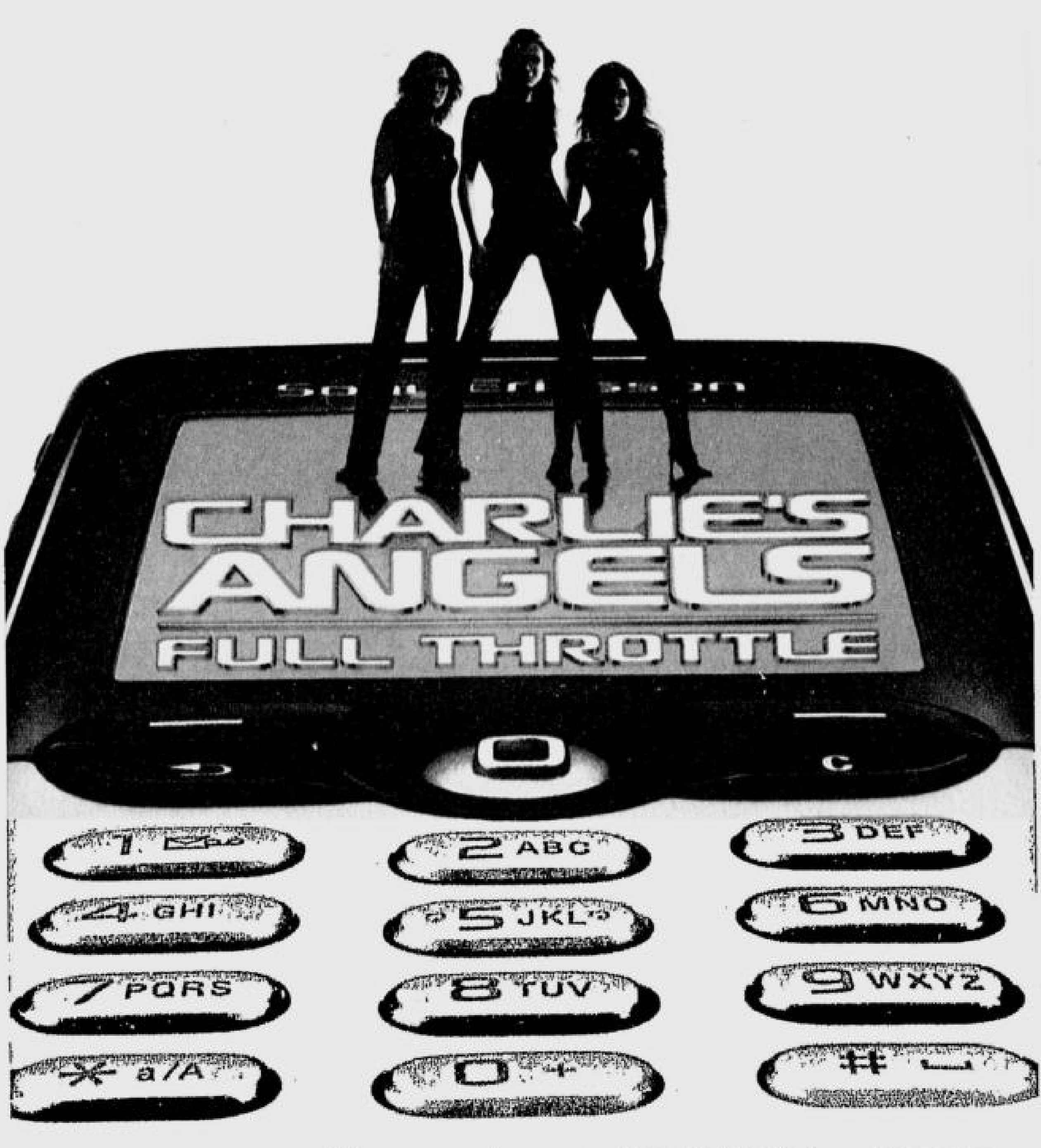
He doesn't condone drug use. He's never been to the Clermont Lounge, a legendary strip club in Atlanta (though he does jokingly claim to be a card-carrying member of an adult video store), and admits his only vice is a healthy libido.

His nostalgic paean, "83," appeared in the soundtrack of the romantic comedy "Serendipity." His unreleased covers of "Brown Eyed Girl" (Van Morrison) and "Patience" (Guns & Roses) are a must for music enthusiasts, as is his cover of The Police's "Message In A Bottle" (Any Given Thursday).

He even does covers of N'Sync songs, like "Gone" and a prelude of "Pop" before it segues to "No Such Thing." This July, he will be back on the cross-country concert trail with the Counting Crows (Big Yellow Taxi).

Write to John Mayer c/o Brick Wall Management, 648 Amsterdam ave., 4A, New York, New York 10025 USA.

MAYER. Pop music's talented hunk of the moment.



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SATURDAY *Special*

Zellweger stars in homage to Doris Day

By Larry Fine

NEW YORK—Renee Zellweger, fresh from her stunning turn in the musical film "Chicago," swings into action as the second coming of Doris Day in "Down With Love," a sex comedy with a twist.

Fun

"They're fun. Fun is good," Zellweger says about the Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedies that are paid a loving homage in the stylized period piece co-starring Ewan McGregor.

"We were like school kids every day, like kids at recess." Zellweger said about the cast in an interview.

This latest cinematic battle of the sexes is more like a lavish love-in celebrating the sexual tensions and sumptuous look of the period, but done with 21st Century hindsight.

Zellweger plays Barbara Novak, who hits the Big Apple with her new book, "Down With Love," a pre-feminist manifesto on saying "no" to love and "yes" to career—and sex. She becomes the target of crack journalist Catcher Block (Ewan McGregor), a ladies' man who is determined to take her down.

ZELLWEGER. Her character wants women to say "no" to love and "yes" to career—and sex.

Opulent fantasy

Directed by Peyton Reed ("Bring It On"), the film bursts with the lush effect of 1960s' Technicolor and revels in an opulent fantasy of life in New York, from idealized street scenes to impossibly spacious apartments, to wonderfully phony backdrops.

More than 100 costumes, all outlandishly color-coordinated, were designed for the film, which was shot on 55 sets constructed on four stages that brought the fantasy Gotham to life at Hollywood Center Studios.

"Down With Love" takes place in 1962 and was written and designed to look like it was made in 1962, although the split-screen shots, imagery and some of the repartee are charged with far more bawdiness than the comedies of the period.

Zellweger said she was sold on the project after reading the script by screenwriters Eve Ahlert and Dennis Drake.

Play on words

"It made me laugh. I loved the script," said the petite blonde. "I loved the play on words, the double entendres. It's quick, like a Cadillac. So smart." Acting in such a stylized production offered challenges to a cast that included David Hyde Pierce, of TV "Frasier" fame, and Sarah Paulson of TV's "Leap of Faith" comedy series.

Comic foil

Pierce, a comic foil to McGregor's character, said at some point the actor must simply trust the director.

"You've got to have someone at the helm who you just say, 'Okay, I'm going to do this, but if you don't stop me when I go too far, I'm going to find you and kill you."

McGregor, who has also thrived as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the "Star Wars" series, said: "I didn't want to subvert the genre, I wanted to nail it, that was the challenge."

Reuters

Eddie Romero, National Artist

By Nestor U. Torre

EVER since we've involved ourselves with the National Artists awards, we've had only two candidates—playwright-director Freddie Guerrero and screenwriter-producer-director Eddie Romero.

Top artistic honor

Some 10 years ago, when Freddie was still alive, we joined others in pushing for his being given the National Artist award. We felt that he was fully deserving of the country's top artistic honor because he had pioneered in both playwriting and directing, had trained successive generations of young theater artists, and had dedicated his entire life to his art and to teaching.

The year that we pushed for him, Freddie didn't have his own home. Despite his many distinctions, he was a poor man, and we were shocked at how the country was blithely ignoring one of its prime, au-

ROMERO. A great inspiration to younger filmmakers.

EDDIE/ E2

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How we found our lead actor for CLSU play

By Behn Cervantes

I WAS in Central Luzon State University in far-off Muñoz, the Science City of Nueva Ecija, on a personal outreach program to help develop regional cultural growth.

Intention

I was working closely with Dean Malou G. Abon and former Dean Fulgencio T. Soriano of the College of Arts and Sciences to stage a play for the university in the hope that they could continue to put up their own productions after I was gone.

I decided to once again stage Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's historical play "Walking Canes and Fans" translated into Tagalog by Gem Soriano as "Pagbibinyag sa Apoy at Dugo," a title I picked up from a line in the play spoken by the young hero Juaning. In describing the consequences of a bloody revolution, he declares the revolution as a baptism of fire and blood.

When I staged it first in 1974, the controlling effects of Martial Law were most felt at UP. I wanted to inject the play's revolutionary message clearly for the students at the university.

Different ages

The one-set play has drama, comedy and more. I am especially attracted to its strong feminist sentiments. The play needs actors of different ages, and that can include both faculty and students, thus allowing for rapport between different generations.

I especially needed a good actor to play the young Juaning, the *ilustrado* son who secretly becomes a part of the Katipunan.

GARCIA (right) with Marge Manlulu in "Pagbibinyag sa Apoy at Dugo."

The actor had to look upper-class, but should have the zeal of a revolutionary, too. When none appeared right among those who auditioned, I decided to hunt around the wide campus.

I chanced upon a rather tall and most presentable young man. He had *'makaluma'* (old fashioned) good looks. I asked Benjie Flores, my stage manager to find our who he was.

It turned out that he was Benjie Garcia, their Mr. Science City. Okay, so was he interested? Could he do it, he asked in return? I liked the forthrightness. I appreciated the absence of false humility. If he was willing to work, I would squeeze a good performance out of him. Could he take it?

We proceeded to find out. He had it, I sensed, but he was like wet flintstone. There was an emotional barrier. I took him and another actor to a room and talked to them about the inner goings-on of the character, his challenges, hurts and frustrations. I talked to Benjie once more and asked him to read the lines.

Hurts and pains

Slowly, the hurts and pains of Juaning came out. I felt for the character and I was certain he had hit the right emotional button. I brought him to Del Soriano, the actress who would play his mother, and she read the scene with him. He got it once again, right on the emotional mark.

Del was so astounded by the metamorphosis that she herself got emotionally involved in the scene. She complimented Benjie for his transformation.

Benjie Garcia is a neophyte. He certainly has a lot to learn. But he has been empowered by the inner emotional resources he finally found within himself.

Benjie now knows there are secret doors and untapped powers he can open and exploit. After the audition comes the harvest, the joy of acting both for the actor and the audience, who enter worlds unknown, but joyful for everyone involved.

Chocoholics' dream

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

HAVE you tried a dish you loved so much that you asked its recipe from the cook, and he evaded your request or just refused to give it? Don't be offended. It used to bother me too, but not anymore.

Reasons

You will encounter many people who are not willing to share a recipe, for various reasons.

But I know someone who runs the most successful baking school in the country and makes the most beautiful wedding cakes—and she's the opposite! She will share any recipe she has. That's called generosity and confidence.

I was invited to one of her school's graduations and there I tasted some of the finest creations of her students. None of those creations would have been possible without her giving heart.

Pastry Diva and Chef Heny Sison has sent off many graduates who have successfully put up their own businesses. At that affair, I tried a dessert created by the graduating class led by Madame Patty Loanzon. It was a dessert concocted by Patty and her group. They called it "French Kiss."

Layers

It is made up of layers of Chocolate Genoise (Genoise is a light French cake made with eggs, flour and sugar), filled with alternate layers of chocolate and strawberry mousse. Fantastic!

Patty always had a creative mind when it comes to baking. Before she enrolled in Heny's school, she would bake as a hobby and had come up with a delicious Concorde cake—a chocoholics' dream.

Other bestsellers are the lemon torte and Pandan Crunch Cake. Patty just opened a bakeshop with some friends called Theo's, located inside a family hobby shop called Hobbes, at Greenbelt 3 and at an upper floor at Podium.

Check out her cakes—call 713-2968. Comes highly recommended!

Happy eating!

Eddie . . .

From page E1

thentic artists.

We wanted him to get the National Artist award while he was still alive, because we wanted him to savor the reward for his many selfless years as an artist, and because he certainly could have used the monthly stipend that came along with being named National Artist.

Alas, it was not to be. For reasons best known to them, the people who decided on the National Artists that year chose to deny Freddie that signal honor, which he most richly deserved.

Soon after, Freddie died, a poor and broken man. His many admirers held their own "awards" night for him, during which he was hailed as an "unofficial" National Artist by his peers—but we all knew that it wasn't the same as the official honor that had been denied him.

Then, some years later, Freddie Guerrero *was* officially conferred the National Artist award. Unfortunately, he was no longer around to savor the triumph.

Painful irony

To us, this was the height of painful irony. Because, between the time he had lost out and the time that he gotten the award, he had done nothing more to add to his achievements. In other words, he had been fully deserving when he was alive—so why didn't they honor him then?

That was when we decided that, if we wanted deserving people to be hailed as National Artists, we had to do more than just suggest and endorse, we had to become part of the selection process.

We focused on our remaining best bet, Eddie Romero, and decided to do everything we could to make sure that he didn't suffer Freddie's fate, namely, to be declared National Artist after he had left this ungrateful world.

EDDIE/ E4

hi ate joy!
pwede pabili
from NY? :)

Cousin Loloy

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

> He was extra-ordinary in his ordinariness. He had something that made people know instinctively that he was a good man

DEAR Clara,

The world hardly noticed that one great man had passed on—for this man died the same way he lived: Quietly. Unobtrusively. With neither fuss nor fanfare. In peace. With dignity.

Special breed

I believe what some people say, that he belonged to a special breed of men who didn't detour to purgatory anymore—the Lord gives the likes of him a special pass to go straight to heaven.

He was my favorite cousin, Francisco Montevirgen, He was always Loloy to me and the people whose lives he'd touched. He made people feel good that they had known him. Not that he projected an aura of importance or had accomplished something that changed the course of human history.

I can't really put a finger on what he had, but it was something that made people know instinctively that he was a good man.

Fr. John Flynn, in his homily during the requiem mass, cited Loloy's uprightness and fidelity to his principles and convictions. For Loloy did live his life along the straight and narrow path—but he had the sensitivity not to impose his own scruples on others.

Elegant wit

His wife, your Tita Vye, told me of his elegant wit, of how well he played the piano, of the love with which he suffused the people he cared about. They weren't just husband and wife, they were soulmates.

He wrote beautiful love letters, never mushy but always from the heart. They communicated with words—but even more so without them. For their relationship was also a communion of spirits.

His daughters, your Ate Mona and Ate Tina, are at a loss for words to describe how great a father they have lost. But they talk endlessly about the quiet but invigorating evenings they had with him, when they'd talk about anything and everything, luxuriating in each other's company, basking in the divine comforts of family.

Your Tita Letty spoke of how she always egged Loloy on to write a book, for he was gifted not just with the flair for the written word, but also with a sharp mind. Loloy would only smile. He preferred to just edit the work of others, or ghostwrite for some important people or simply not put any attribution to what he had written. He had a healthy distaste for seeing his own byline.

Humility

As for me, Clara, I most remember Loloy for his self-effacing simplicity and humility. And he was extraordinary in his ordinariness. Most people whip up elaborate schemes to draw attention to themselves but Loloy wasn't like that. He had mastered the art of losing himself in a crowd.

In a party, he was successful at blending with the wallpaper—not that he was shy and insecure, but because he was always so at peace with himself, with others and with his world that he had achieved the supreme virtue of self-demotion.

Thinking positive, finding the silver lining in every dark cloud, wait for the calm after every storm—these weren't just slogans for him, but real road signs that set the direction as he trekked in his journey through life. Nothing could dampen his spirits. No one could ruffle his feathers. Serenity reigned deep inside him even as cyclones raged.

I have long suspected that Loloy had found the fountain of happiness. It was in being content with whatever was there, and in not longing for whatever was not. He had no need for wealth, fame and power—but it was precisely because of his detachment from them that what he did have was of greatest value.

He wasn't rich but he was happy. He wasn't famous but he was at peace. He wasn't powerful but had family and friends who loved him deeply.

Deep friendships

There were many things that Loloy didn't know—boasting, getting angry, speaking ill of others, creating enemies. Loloy was Mr. Congeniality. Through the years, he had developed very deep friendships with many people—friends who shared not only afternoons of scintillating conversation with him, but also themselves and their blood when he needed them.

Vye said, "He had friends who really went out of their way to help him. When we got married, they were in charge of everything. When he got sick and needed huge transfusions of blood, they were there. There was even one who had never done it in his whole life, but did it for him."

Loloy had a very rare blood ailment called myelofibrosis, a defect of the bone marrow. When first diagnosed in 1998, the prognosis was bad. Loloy was given just four years to live. And he needed blood transfusion every month. Which became twice, then thrice a month.

Later, it became once every five months. The family was jubilant. But then, it became monthly again. Until he needed a blood transfusion every three weeks.

Cousin Loloy died on June 14, a Saturday, the day of Mama Mary, to whom he had a special devotion. For Loloy was a deeply religious man. He was a member of the family renewal community called Couples for Christ.

Strength

According to Vye, it was because of this that their family has had the strength to cope with Loloy's ailment and eventual demise.

"Because of Couples for Christ, Loloy was able to find joy," Vye mused. "His joy didn't mean the absence of pain—for he certainly had lots of it. His joy was in the knowledge that God, who loved him so much, was in charge of his life."

Vye is thankful to Loloy for many things—most of all, for the gift of faith, which he lavishly shared with her and their family. "He was always steadfast. And he was faithful to his prayer time. He was the priest in our home. Because of him, God has become real to our family."

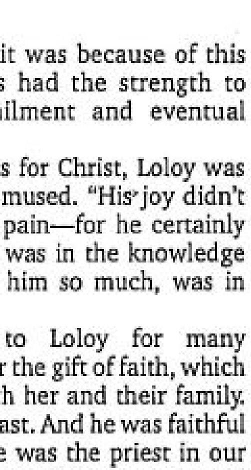
It was also to Couples for Christ that Vye attributed the deepening of the marriage she had with Loloy. "We learned to appreciate each other more, to be more eloquent in expressing our feelings. More importantly, we had learned that we were a couple for Christ—not for each other or for the family, but for Christ. Indeed, it is only when spouses becomes a couple for Christ that their relationships with each other, the family and everyone else achieve fullness."

Ah, Clara! I had always known that cousin Loloy was special—but I regret not having gone the extra mile to really plumb the depths of his essence. I could have learned a lot from him. I could have found the Lord much earlier because of him. Such a pity that he had to go so soon.

Loloy left a day before Father's Day. Mona and Tina felt bad that they no longer had him on that day. But they couldn't complain. Their dad wanted to celebrate Father's Day with his Father in Heaven.

Ariel Rivera on 'Inday, Heart to Heart'

Tomorrow on "Inday, Heart to Heart" (10:30-11:30 a.m., GMA-7) Ariel Rivera speaks for the first time about how his heart was once torn between the two great loves of his life.



RIVERA. Torn between two loves.

The *kilabot ng mga kolehiyala* laughs and cries as he gamely talks about the things that have ultimately defined what he is today as a person, artist, husband and father.

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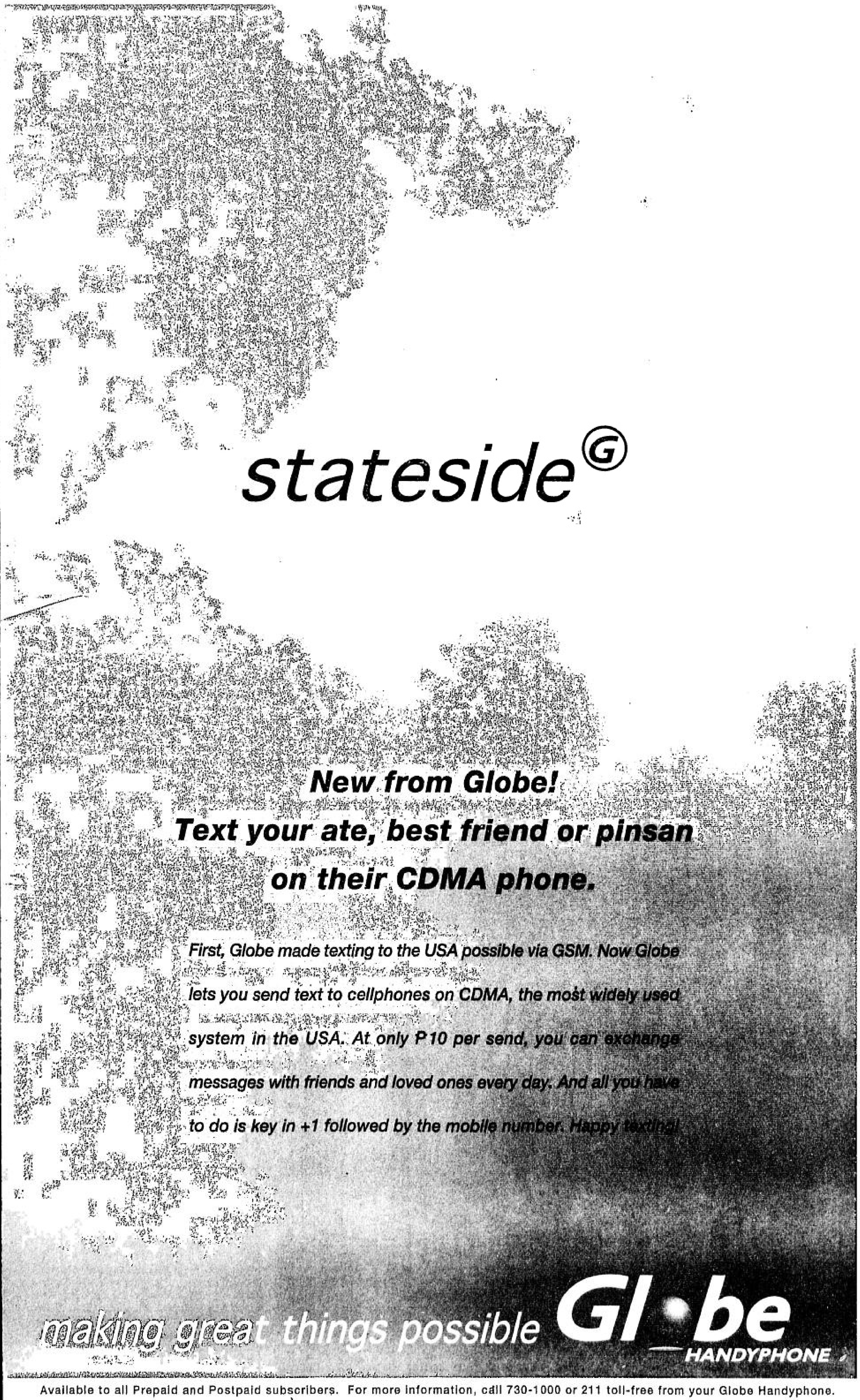

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Kara lives on the cutting edge of her TV stories

DAVID (top, right) and her TV crew go where the action is.

By Jocelyn Valle

KARA David doesn't want to see her face on TV. "*Kaya lang,* "I-Witness' *nga ang* title *ng* program *namin*, so I have to be there."

Teacher

Kara never really dreamed of becoming an on-cam personality. She had wanted to be an elementary-school teacher, specializing in her favorite subject, History.

But after earning a degree in broadcast communication in 1994, she got a part-time job as production assistant and researcher for GMA-7's coverage of the national elections. Kara officially joined the network in 1996 as researcher for "Emergency." Then she became a reporter for another public-affairs program, "Brigada Siete," which gave her her first taste of on-cam work.

"*Malaking problema sa akin 'yun*," she recounts, shaking her head. "*Hindi ako marunong mag*-makeup. High-pitched *ang boses ko. Gusto kong magpa*-nose lift!"

Sincerity

How she looked on TV didn't matter to viewers, though. They loved the way she presented her reports with clarity and sincerity.

In 2001, Kara became a full-fledged news reporter, and the following year she became a part of the Monday-night documentary program.

"*Pangarap ko talagang mag*-'I-Witness,'" she smiles. "*Sinabi nila sa akin na maghanap ako ng* cutting-edge *na* story. *Sabi ko gagawin ko 'yung gusto ko*—children, *simpleng buhay sa probinsya. During that time uso 'yung* PPA, so *naisip ko na maghanap ng isang barangay na walang kuryente*."

Then suddenly she remembered the teacher who wrote to her just before "Brigada" folded up. "*Sabi niya*," she relates, "*baka naman puwedeng bigyan mo kami ng gasera o lumang baterya ng kotse para mailawan ang eskwelahan namin*.'

Upon the suggestion of her executive producer, Nanette Matilac, Kara and her researcher looked for another *barangay* in a similar situation. They discovered one in Ifugao, but this time a solution had been found in the invention of a hydroelectric plant by one of its villagers.

Affecting results

"Gamu-gamo sa Dilim" tugged at the hearts of viewers, and she was able to replicate the same affecting result in her succeeding documentaries: "Kasambahay," "Laruan" (about street kids who got into prostitution), "Breadwinner," "Deboto," "Bangungot ng mga Anghel" (kids who lost their minds because of the abuses they suffered) and "Teacher."

When it comes to editing her script, though, the EP has the last say. "And it breaks my heart," she groans. "*Ang* style *ko daw kasi, pang*-libro *na walang* limit. *Dapat daw matuto akong magpa-iksi. Hindi ibig sabihin na 'pag maiksi s'ya, 'di na puwedeng maging* lyrical. *Marunong naman akong makinig sa kanila*."

Kara also admits that she used to be cynical about the power of faith and prayers before she met Christian, her case study for "Deboto." "*Pinaakyat n'ya ako sa* Nazareno *sa* Quiapo," she recounts her first close encounter of the religious kind. "*Dati pinagtatawanan ko lang 'yung mga pumupunta doon. Pero naiyak talaga ako*."

Donor

After the documentary was aired, Kara got a call the following day from a donor who wanted to help Christian. "*Dinala namin siya sa* Makati Med," she relates. "The doctors tried to insert a tube inside his body. *Pero masyadong maliit ang katawan n'ya. 'Di talaga kaya. Maraming problema ang batang 'yun*.

"Hopeless *na, kaya tinext ko lahat ng mga kaibigan ko*: Please pray for Christian. *Sila naman: Ha? Parang* it's not you—*pero magpi*-pray *na rin kami*. First time *kong mag*-ask *ng* prayer. *Dati kasi kapag may nangyayaring magandang bagay dahil sa* prayer, *hindi ako naniniwala*."

After a month of receiving therapy at their home in Pampanga, Christian was miraculously healed. "*Ang taba na niya!*" she exclaims. "*Nakaka*-smile *na siya. Nagre*-respond *na siya. Nung una kasi akala namin blind siya*."

Christian is not the only person she's interviewed that Kara's has gotten attached to. On her mobile phone, she has stored digital images of the children who have touched her life, side by side with her own two-year-old daughter, Julia Kristiana.

Eddie . . .

From page E2

Early indications

Alas, the early indications weren't very auspicious. Even before we had decided to get involved, Eddie had been nominated and went through the National Artist selection process once or twice earlier, but had not gotten the honor.

How could this be, when he had been a standout filmmaker for more than 50 years? We asked some people in the know and got some answers. We then decided that, regardless of how valid or not those reasons were, people who believed that Eddie Romero deserved to become a National Artist should be able to address and counter those concerns.

For that to happen, however, we had to be invited to join the selection process as an expert in one of the fields up for awards. Fortuitously, we were asked earlier this year to join the Committee on Broadcast Arts, and other Romero "believers" were invited to join other committees.

At the committee level, we dealt only with nominees in our field. In the next session, however, chosen representatives from *all* categories were asked to discuss the official nominees from all fields who had passed the committee level in the screening process, and we were able to join others in extolling Romero for his competence ad dedication.

Qualifications

Since his qualifications were obvious, we opted merely to add that National Artists should inspire younger practitioners, and seen in that light, Romero was a standout, because he was a continuing inspiration to us. We loved the fact that he was already in his mid-70s, but was still lining up major TV-film projects that would take up so much of his time and energy.

And so it was that the second panel endorsed Romero's elevation to the rank of National Artist, along with a few others. The final step would be for the CCP trustees and NCCA commissioners to delimit the list further, after which the final nominees would be forwarded to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Even more fortuitously, just a few weeks before that last vote, we had been named CCP trustee, so we were also part of the final step in the nine-month selection process for the 2003 National Artists.

After extensive presentations and discussions, the "final-final" nominees were chosen—Eddie Romero for Film and Broadcast Arts, Virgilio Almario for Literature, Jose Joya for Visual Arts, and Salvador Bernal for Theater Design.

Finally, the second of our two best bets has been officially named National Artist. Even better, he's still very much around to enjoy the accolades, and to be inspired to come up with more masterworks.

Long live our National Artists!

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SATURDAY Special

Reyes family in US musical show

By Nestor U. Torre

MANY years ago, the Ateneo invited us to play Fagin in its grade school's staging of the hit musical, "Oliver!" We got to act with wonderful talents like Araceli Dans and a host of gifted actor-singers, including Ariosto Reyes.

Ariosto was so small in those days that director Yani Singson tapped him as the boy we would hoist up in the air, or hold upside-down by his heels.

After that introduction to acting, Ariosto never stopped, playing other theater, TV and film roles as he grew up (he was one of the kids in Lino Brocka's first film, "Wanted: Perfect Mother").

Theater roots

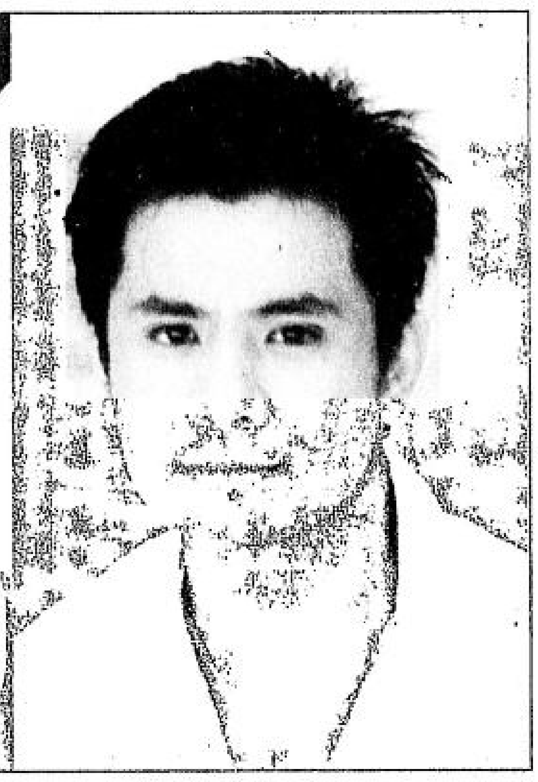
We kept track of Ariosto's career for some years, but we eventually lost touch. Recently, however, our friend and colleague, Bel Cunanan, informed us that Ariosto had moved with his family to the States. Happily, he hasn't forgotten his theater roots, and his wife Maria and their children all appear to also have been bitten by the singing-acting bug!

Great news

All the way from Florida in the States comes the great news that, last April, all of the goodlooking and talented Reyeses played lead and other roles in Shiloh Theatrical Productions' staging (from the 11th to the 20th) of Rodgers and Hammerstein's much-loved musical "The King and I" at the Lyric The-

REYES/ F2

REYES FAMILY OF ACTOR-SINGERS. From left, Santi, Beatrice, Ari, Claudia, Maria and Angela.



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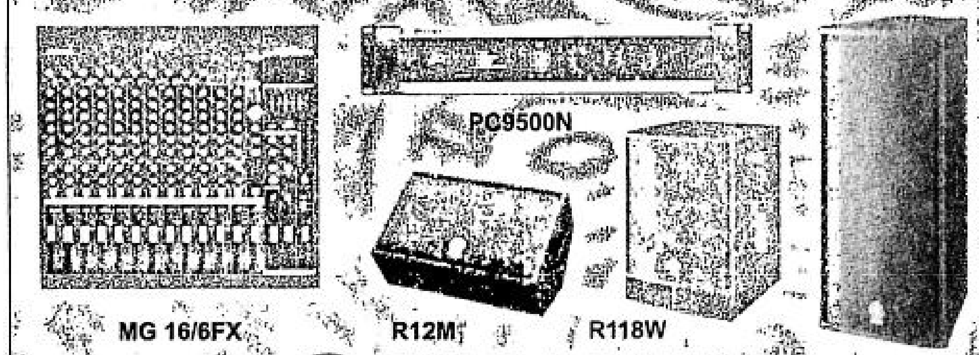

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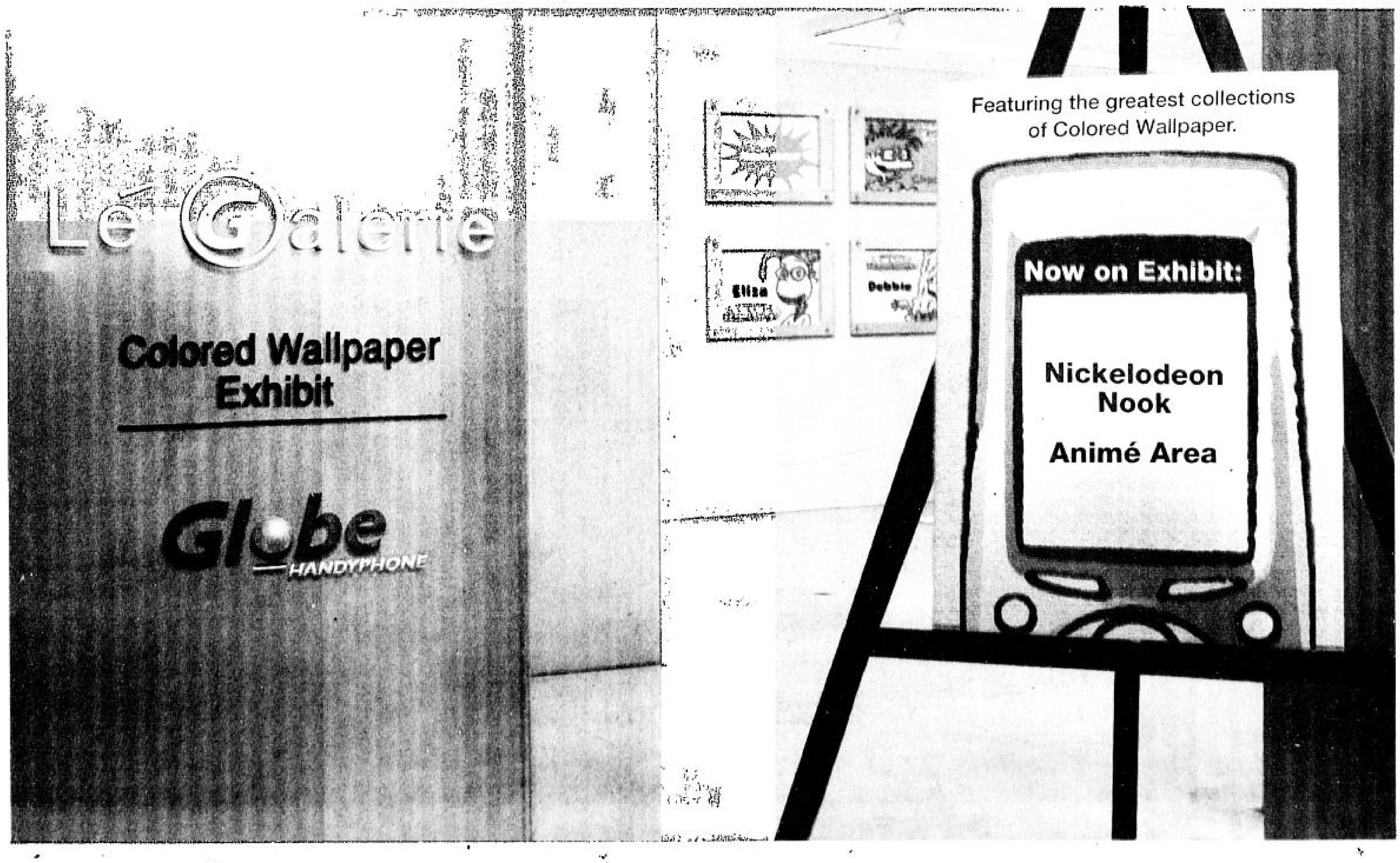

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Reyes family in US musical show

From page F1

ater in Stuart.

Ariosto (now Ari) Reyes played the male lead in the show—and he was surrounded onstage by his whole family: Maria sang the part of Lady Thiang, the king's first wife; their 14-year-old son Santi, was Prince Chululongkorn; and Angela, 18, Claudia, 5, and Beatrice, 3, were cast as the king's other children.

It's a rare occurrence in the theater for all of the members of a family of six to perform in one show, so the production used the Reyes' collective involvement in the musical as a major thrust in its promotional campaign.

It's also quite unique for a husband-wife team to sing important roles in a musical, so Ari and Maria are to be commended for accomplishing that feat. The king in the show gets to "speak-sing" many songs, while Lady Thiang's reflective piece, "Something Wonderful," is a musical and emotional highlight of the show.

Aside from performing as a family in "The King and I," the Reyeses have also done well in other areas of their lives in the States.

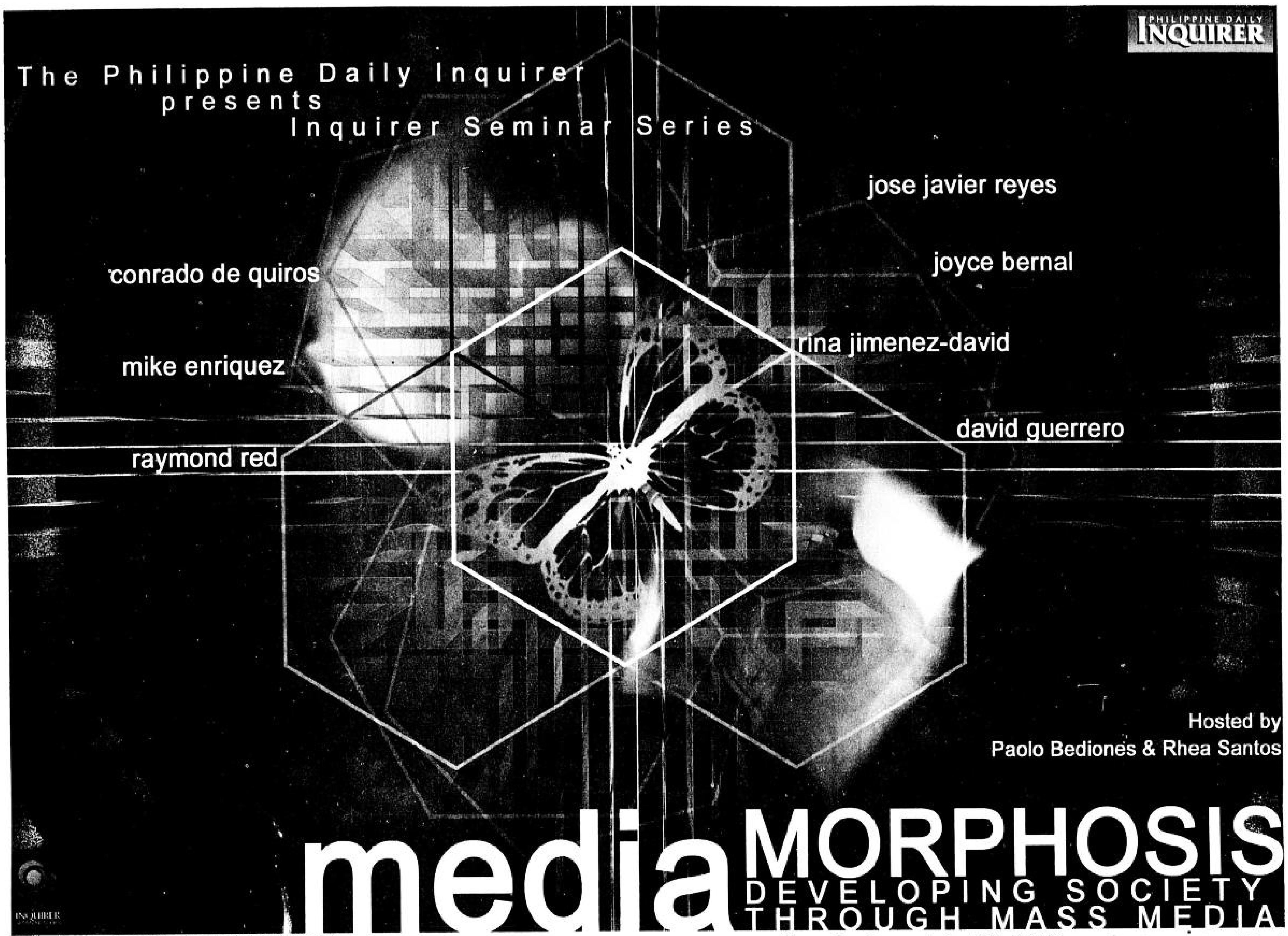
Valedictorian

Angela is the valedictorian at John Carroll High School in Fort Pierce.

We hope that the Reyes family, both collectively and individually, will continue to perform in stage productions in the United States.

And, if they should all come home to the Philippines for an extended visit, they could play most of the major roles in a local production of that other "family" musical, "The Sound of Music"!

ARI as the flamboyant and assertive Siamese monarch in "The King and I."



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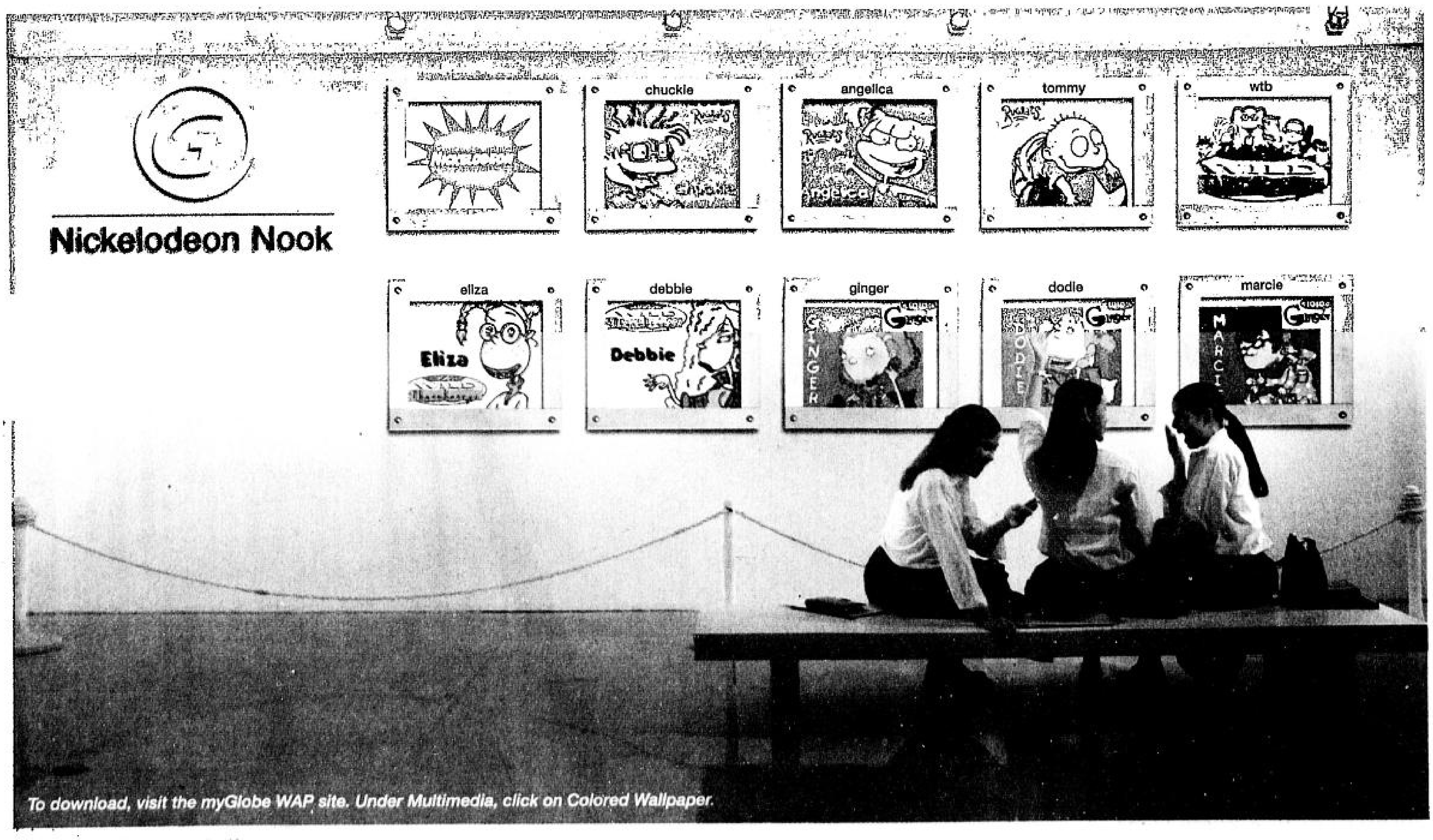

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Barbara Walters shares her interviewing secrets

WALTERS. Her least charming interviewees have been actors.

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"YOU can't win 'em all," Barbara Walters says in her book, "How to Talk to Anybody About Practically Anything." And she has more than 30 years of experience to prove it. Walters, whom Oprah Winfrey openly calls her idol and mentor, has arguably interviewed more statesmen and stars than any other TV journalist in history.

Inside stories

She shares inside stories on how she handled conversations with the likes of Aristotle Onassis, Truman Capote, Ms Martin Luther King, and Judy Garland.

"There are culture gaps that people find painful to talk across," says Walters, "and religious gaps, racial gaps—particularly those involving color—and generation gaps. But the most common block occurs when the gap is accomplishment. Even normally gracious and poised people tend to become rattled by someone very famous, or very rich or very intellectual, or in a position of power."

In talking to technical experts, for example, Walters cautions the interviewer to avoid pretending to be an authority if he isn't.

Sensitive area

She also warns us that in talking with celebrities, if we really must explore a sensitive area such as a former drinking problem or an old scandal, we have to be indirect.

Another tip: "Don't attempt to probe in sensitive areas right after the introduction. Talk about less personal matters until you've built up feelings of trust and liking."

Children

A chapter is also devoted to how to talk to children. Walters proposes that if we really want something exotic in the way of conversation with a child, we could ask deep philosophical questions. "Well, Jill, what do you think God is?"

BARBARA/ F4

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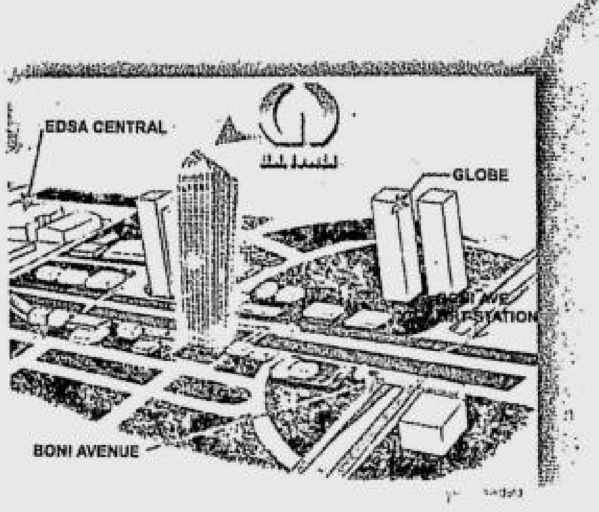

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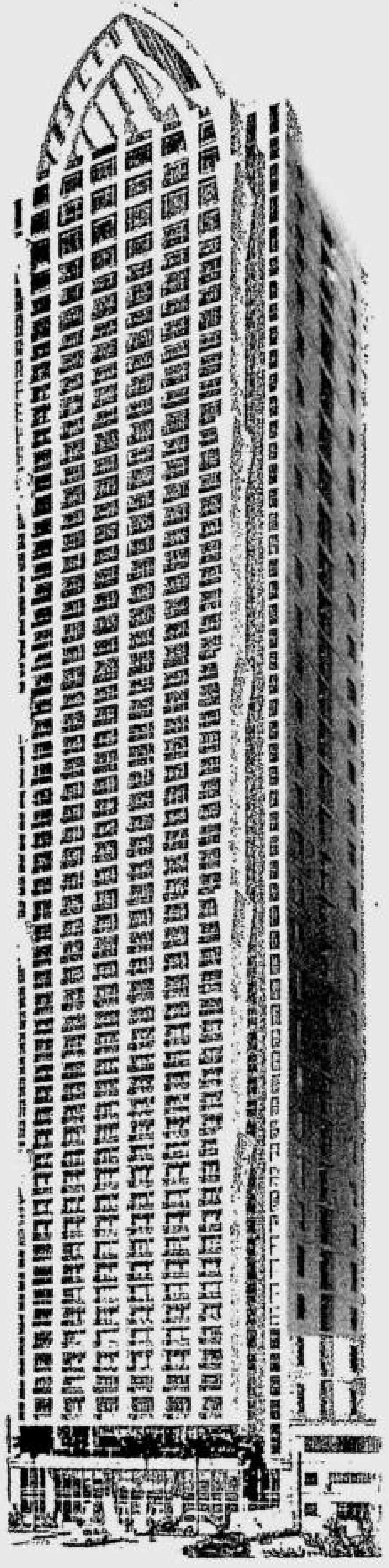

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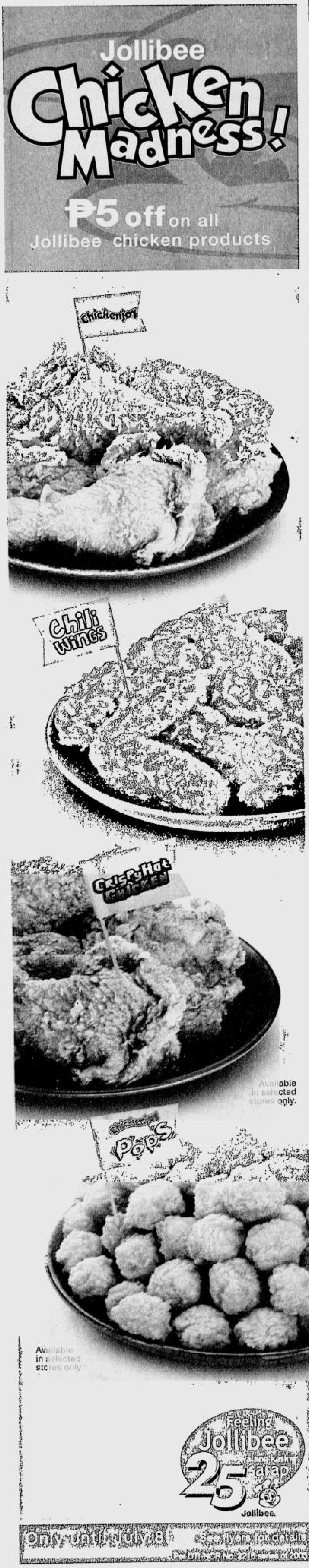
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Racer capers rev up the cinematic action

By Nestor U. Torre

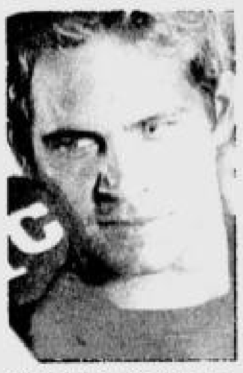
MARK Wahlberg and Paul Walker star in two edgy action films that attempt to push the excitement of cinematic car-racing sequences past the already daunting limits set by "The French Connection" and other chase classics.

Wahlberg's starrer, "The Italian Job," a contemporary remake of Paramount's 1969 hit, casts the popular and versatile actor as a thief who masterminds what he thinks is the "perfect" crime. There's no such thing, of course.

After pulling off a complex gold bullion heist from a heavily-guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy, the thieves are shocked when one of the members of their gang turns out to be a double-crosser.

The gang members are played by an interesting group of actors, some of whom are stars in their own right—Edward Norton, Donald Sutherland, Seth Green, Jason Statham, and Mos Def.

WAHLBERG. Plays a thief who masterminds what he thinks is the "perfect" crime.


WALKER. Casts as a disgraced cop who's given one last chance to redeem himself.

Safecracker

When the gangmates follow the double-crosser to California, they are joined by a cool safecracker, played by the beautiful Charlize Theron. They plan to re-steal the gold by tapping into Los Angeles' traffic control system, manipulating signals and creating one of the biggest traffic jams in that city's history.

The film features the Mini in state-of-the-art chase scenes down Hollywood's Walk of Fame, through the Metro Rail tunnels, and down narrow escape routes where only the Mini can go.

Helicopters

The racing sequences are full of twists, turns and exciting stunts with armored cars, motorcycles-and even helicopters.

Who's the double-crosser in the gang? Writers Donna and Wayne Powers and director F. Gary Gray aren't saying—yet.

The other new racing film, "2 Fast, 2 Furious," casts Paul Walker as a disgraced cop who has one last chance to regain the trust of his former bosses and FBI top brass.

Walker's character teams up with an ex-con (Tyrese) to collar a big businessman (Cole Hauser) who uses his import-export company as cover for an international money-laundering cartel.

Director John Singleton has geared the movie to young audiences. He feels that speed is endemic to the urban lifestyle, and perfect for seat-of-your-pants moviegoing.

Set in the gritty streets of Miami, the film puts the most dazzling and fastest vehicles on the road for a flurry of street-racing competitions.

A crew of fearless stunt drivers took over for the actors when sitting behind the steering wheels of the souped-up racing cars became too dangerous.

No special effects

The racing scenes are so incredible that viewers may think that they were augmented by special effects, but director Singleton debunks that notion. Everything was done and shot live, including the most dangerous stunts.

Singleton also made sure that the visual excitement didn't upstage the film's stars. Paul Walker builds on the success of the first "Fast and Furious" movie, and his screen presence shines through in this sequel.

He is joined by recording artist, model and actor Tyrese, who made his feature film debut as the star of "Baby Boy," also directed by Singleton.

Barbara Walters shares her interviewing secrets

From page F2

The answers to this, she says could really be startling.

But not all conversations are happy. There are times when we have to talk with people in deep sorrow, difficult people, the handicapped, drunk, angry, sullen, boring people. How do we deal with that? The second half of the book tackles that topic.

Most difficult interview

In the "Today" show which Walters hosted for 15 years, she says, the most difficult interview she had was with a young man who was both deaf and blind but was able to earn his doctorate degree.

"We communicated by his putting his thumb against my lips when I talked. His sensitivity was so acute that he could lip-read that way." In circumstances like those, Walters says, the most important thing to remember is: don't make the person's handicap more important than he is.

Through the years, the least charming people Walters says she has talked with are actors. With a few exceptions, she says, they are self-centered, morose and take no trouble to conceal their boredom when the topic wanders from their favorite subject.

She cites the case of her interview with Warren Beatty before he did "Bonnie and Clyde." Known to be sullen and difficult, Walters asked him every provocative question, hoping to pull out answers from Beatty. All he did was to respond in monosyllables and to look extremely bored.

Says Walters: "I'd had it. Right on the air, in front of 10 million people, I said, 'Mr. Beatty, you are the most impossible interview I have ever had. Let's forget the whole thing!"

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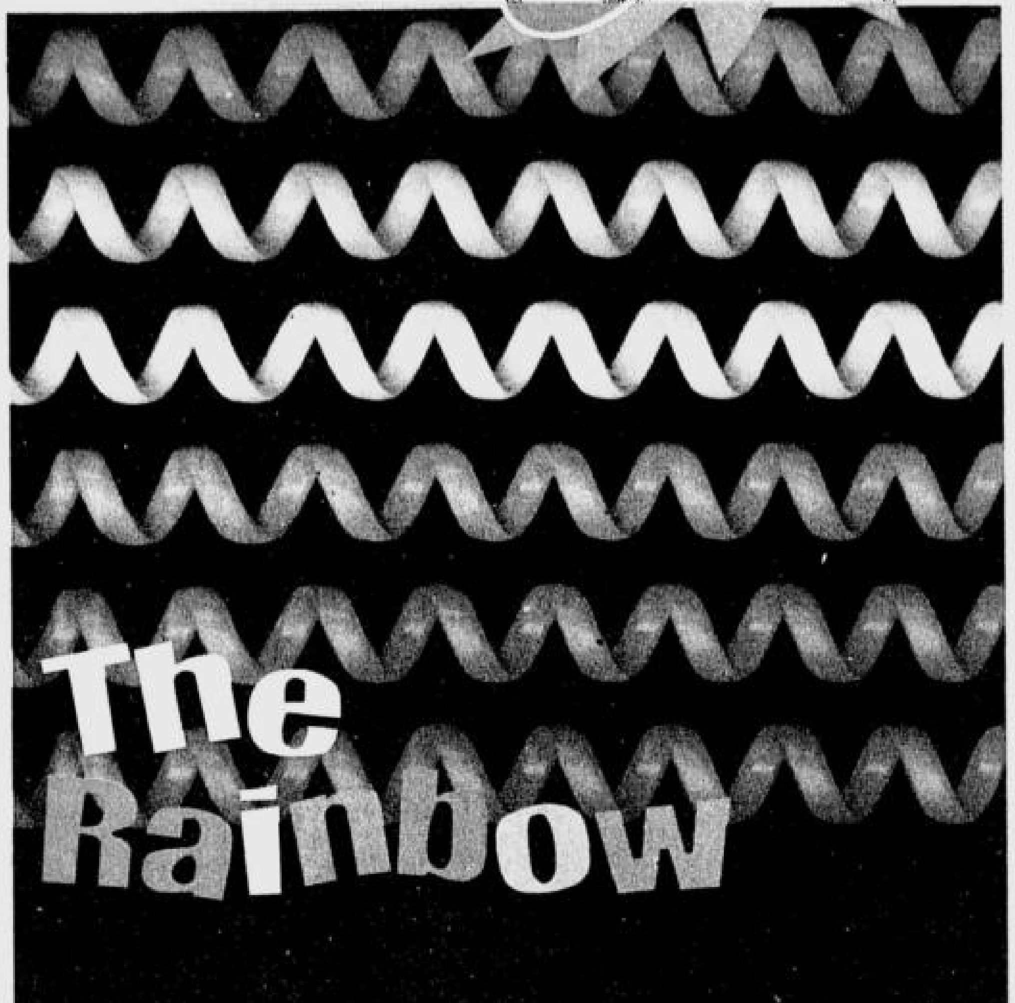
SATURDAY,
JUNE 28, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super

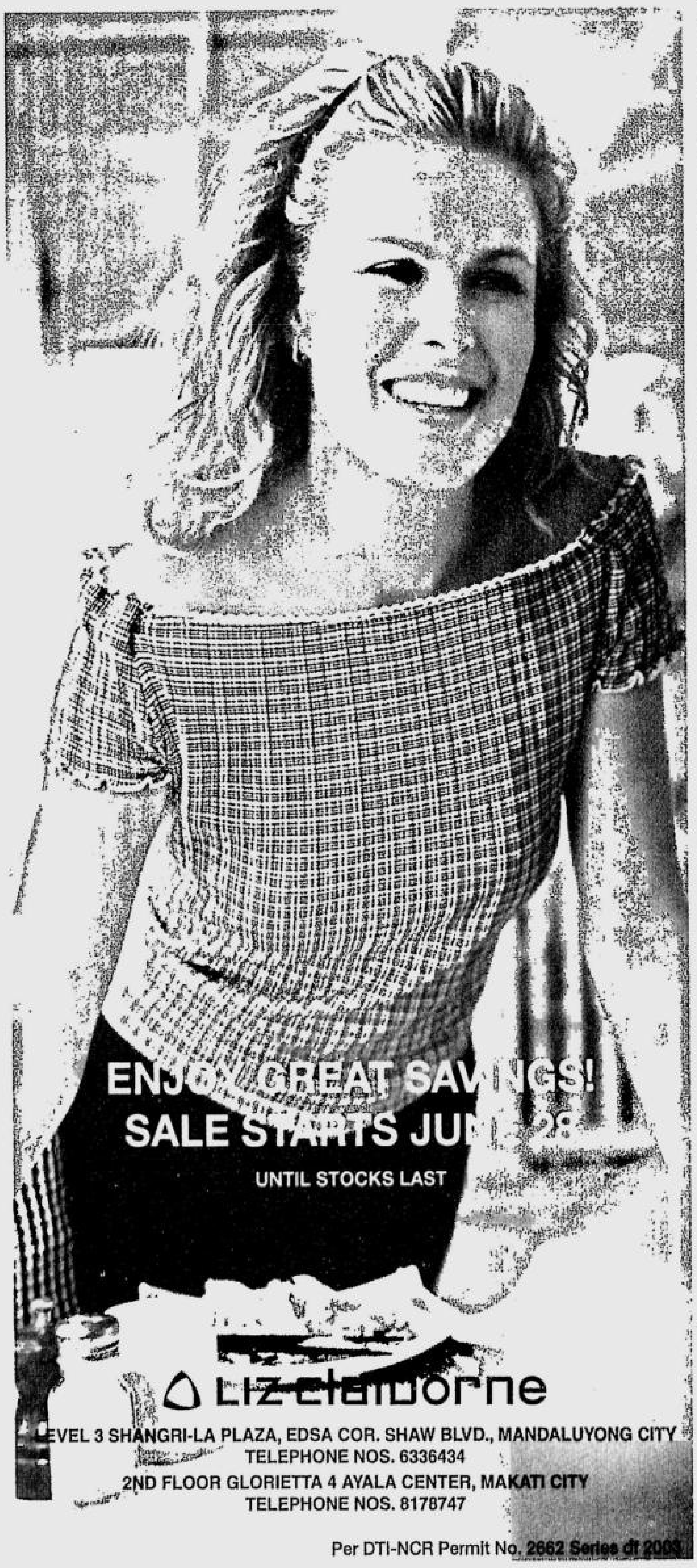
Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**



The Rainbow

Part 1

LET us celebrate diversity, for a change.
From out of our closets, we present to you a portfolio of gay images—homosexual men, homosexual women, transsexuals, the almost-"out"—in a two-part special on this lifestyle that is intricate in the very least and, at its best, famously flamboyant.



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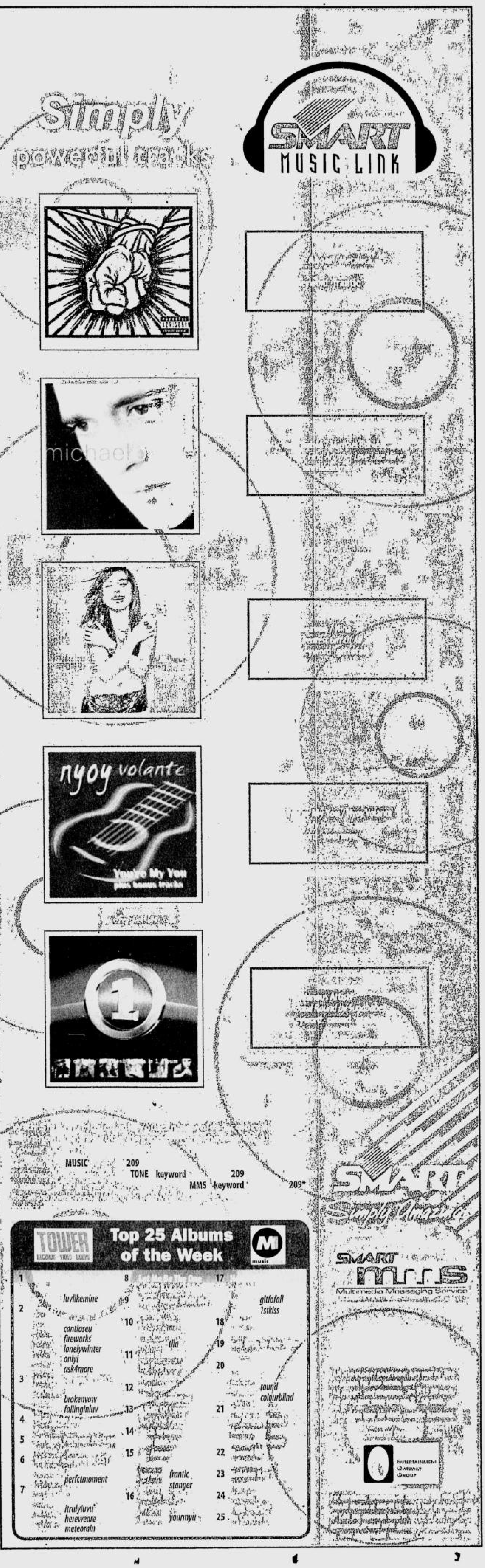

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Scene of Pride

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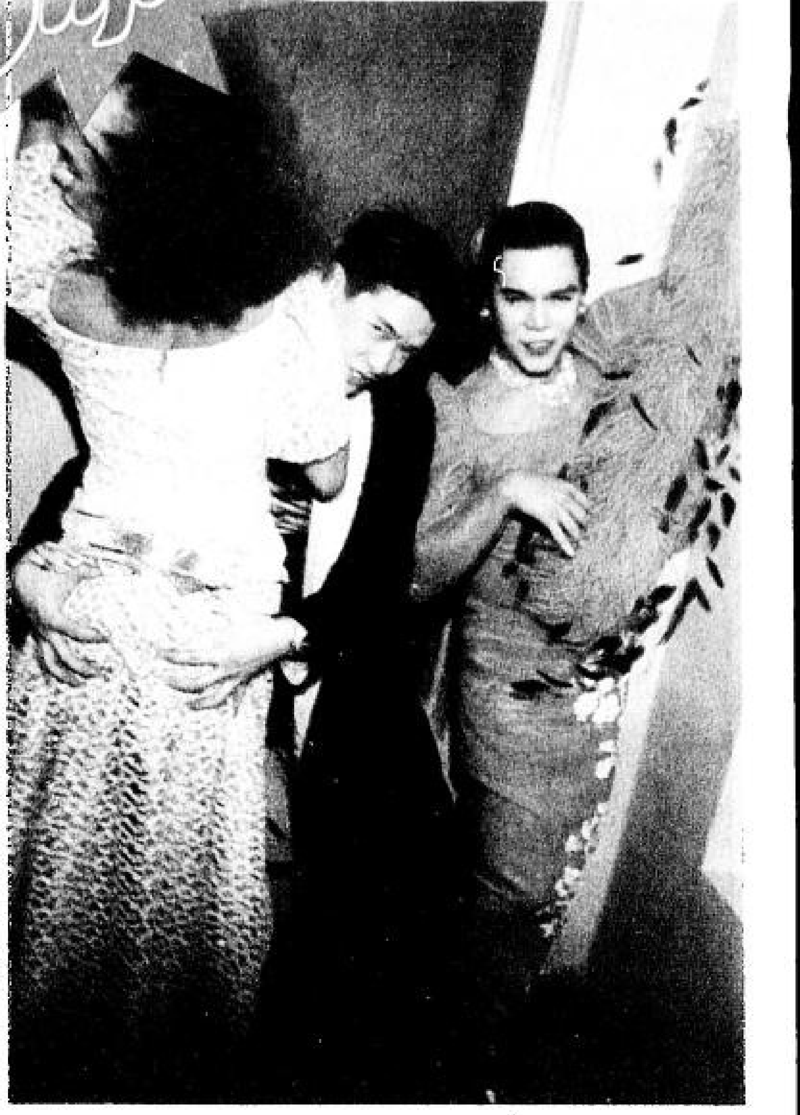
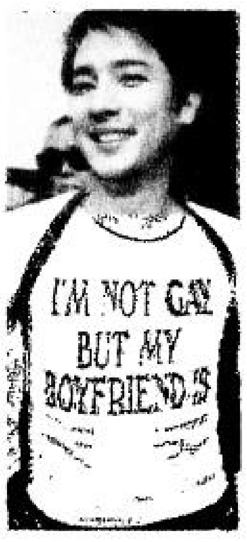
HOMOSEXUALITY is just like heterosexuality except that it's different



DRAG SANDWICHED. Yaparazzi in between Angelo Villanueva and Erich Edralin during Gay Pride some years back

GIRLS who can kick some major butt



CLOSET HETEROSEXUAL. Miko Valenzuela on the loose

LESSON NO. 1—take your shirt off to get noticed

PARE, sinong bakla?

COURAGE to express love

PEEK-A-BOO! Fleshy fun on the dance floor. Say goodbye to your inhibitions

Tim Yap

'All Aboard! The White Party'

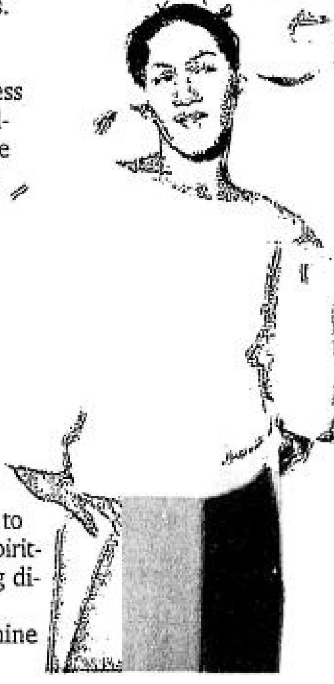
A SCENE of pride, we call it, because here we find bonafide members of the gay populace celebrating who they really are, more than the comic characters that they are often portrayed to be.

It is a showcase of individuality, beauty and openness.

Many outside the community see this occasion as an excuse for senseless revelry. On the contrary, it illustrates how far we have gone in our pursuit of a more dynamic and more diverse culture.

Tonight, on the Maria Orosa strip, let us—gays and 'straights' together—take the trip: "All Aboard!—The White Party in Malate." Let us don sailor suits and cruise until dawn to street beats dished out by spirited DJs. Let us emulate drag divas and show stoppers.

Let our true colors shine through.



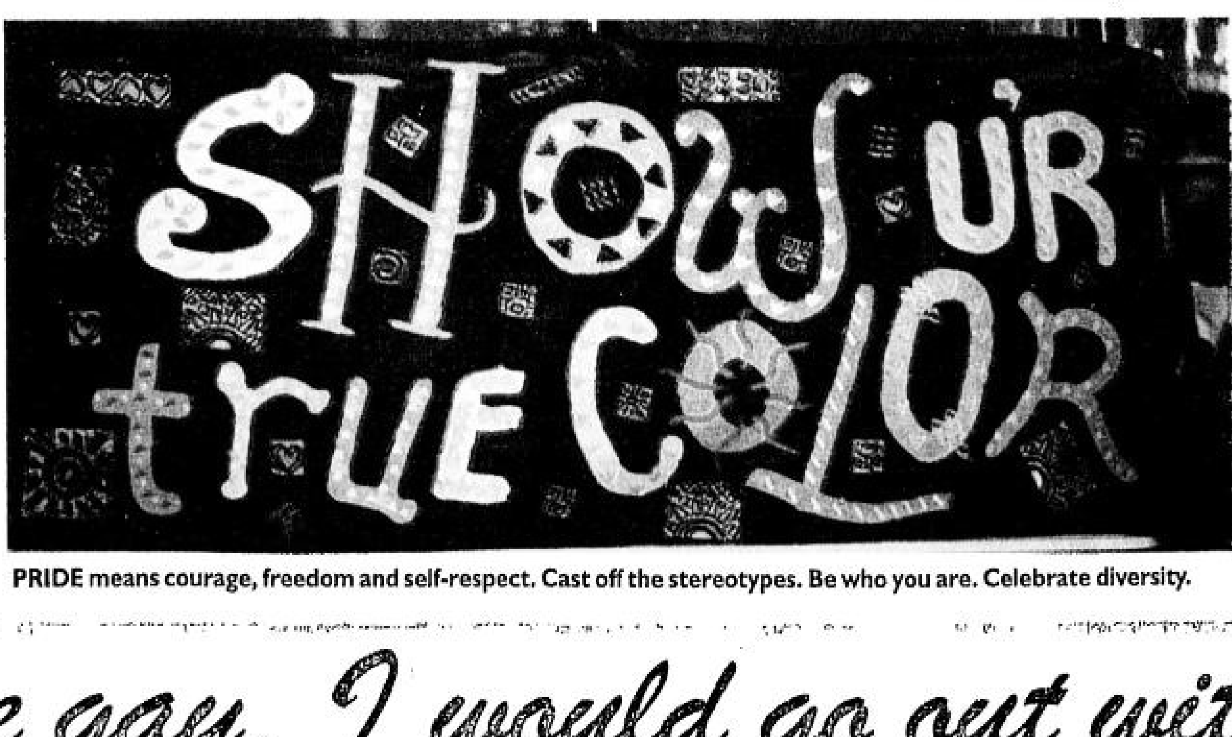
FUN AND FANTASY. One of the many street attractions

TESSA BEWARE! Drag divas line the streets

MADONNA RULES. Colin Mackay long-time Malate mover in his annual makeover

THE MALATE LIFE. DJ Montano, prince of nocturnal Manila at his courtyard

GAY PRIDE is for all ages



PRIDE means courage, freedom and self-respect. Cast off the stereotypes. Be who you are. Celebrate diversity.

BEHIND PRIDE. Backstage at one of the parties

'If I were gay, I would go out with . . . ?'

From page G4

ashamed of. Now, should this appreciation lead to attraction, and then to curiosity, well . . . curiosity leads to answers, doesn't it?

Meanwhile, here are some entertaining, some revealing, answers from the people we asked who were game enough to play with us.

Seen-everywhere mannequin **Isabel Roces** said she was "all-woman" and there was nothing else to it. But her boyfriend, **Migi Romero** did not think twice: "Isabel Roces, gay or straight. Either way, I'd go for her!"

Hunk **Hans Montenegro:** "If I were gay, I'd go for Jack of 'Will and Grace,' because he would make me laugh everyday. We all need something to laugh about at least once a day to stay sane in this insane world."

Supermodel **Phoem Barranda:** "I'd go for boyish girls, doesn't matter if

they're heavy or skinny . . . I just want a woman who can take me down."

Maverick fashion director **Robbie Carmona** couldn't have said it better: "I'd go for the person I'm seeing right now."

Model of the moment **Nicolette Bell** said; "You know of my relationship with **Robby Mananquil**, so if ever, I would go for his twin sister and female version **Rissa Samson**

Uber talent manager **Joji Dingcong**, candidly: "I'm sorry, I'm straight . . . straight to bed. Ha-ha-ha! Just kidding."

Jock **Paolo Cabalfin:** "Tyson Beckford—he's good-looking."

Basketball MVP **Willie Miller:** **"Pwede bang lesbian na lang** (can I pretentl to be a lesbian)? **Angela Velez** and **Aubrey Miles."**

New model **Bubbles Paraiso:** "**Angelina Jolie**, because she's sexy and pretty."

This went well with style society's **Leah Puyat**, who also picked Jolie: "She's hot and she's a pansexual being, able to take on the sexuality of a man or a woman. She looks really flexible."

Society darling **Rose Montenegro:** said, "**Cristina Garcia.** But she's not here. She's very pretty."

Carlo Lopez imagined himself being boxer **Manny Pacquiao's** punching bag.

Shu Uemura make up artist **Xeng Zulueta:** "**Kara Tolentino**—coz I like them booby."

Mega's **Asha Macam** would likewise go for Angelina Jolie or Cristina Garcia: "AJ for her lips and Cristina Garcia for her face and her interest in literature."

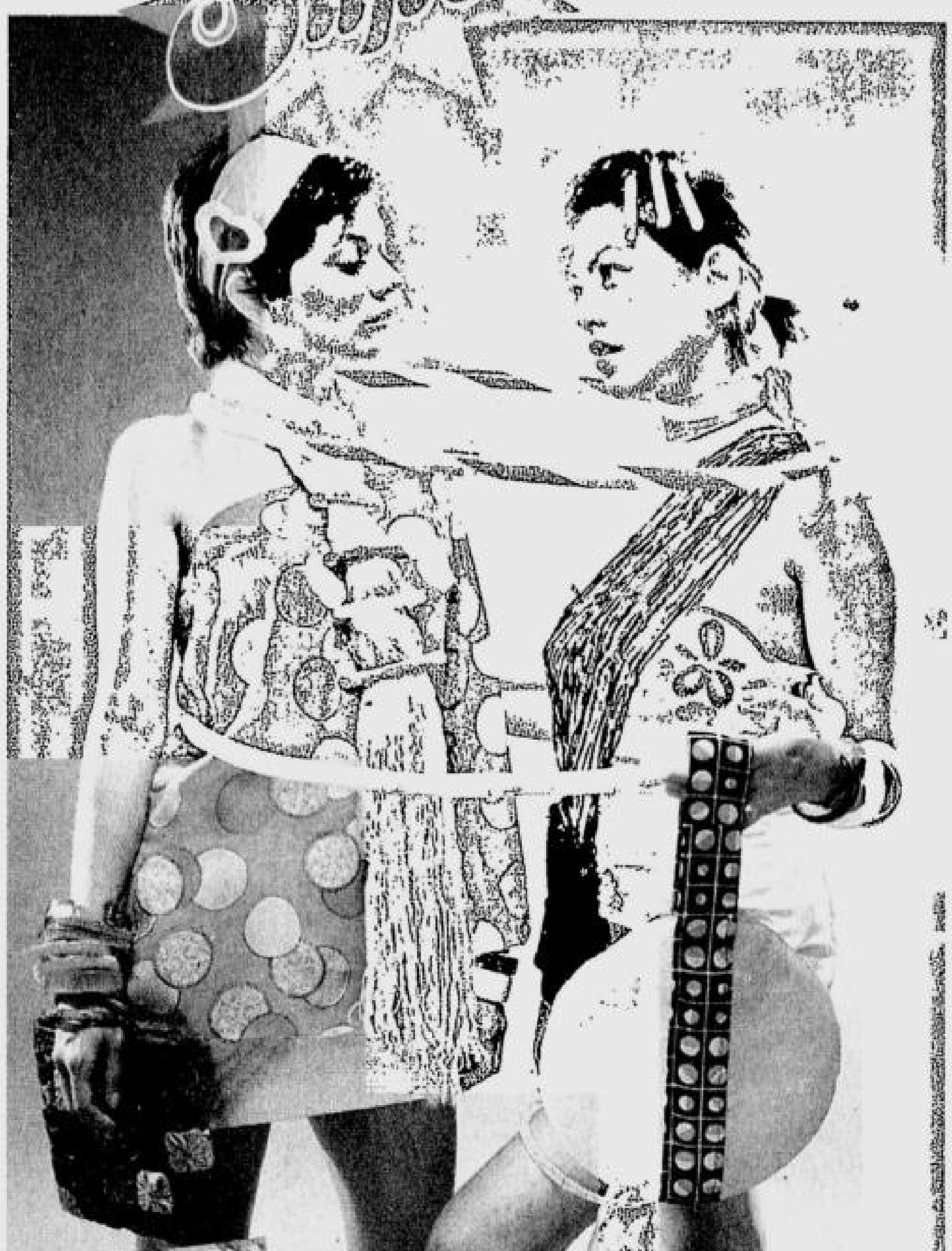
Graphic designer **Kara Tolentino:** "**Tina Tinio**, 'coz after we _____, she can retouch my make up."

Luxasia's **Mia Cuenca:** "**Cindy Kurleto**, if ever."

"It" boy **Fitz Puyat** named his friend, **Paolo Lobregat.**

Businessman **Chut Cuerva** would go for **Louie Y:** "He'll be the disco king to my dancing queen."

1. OBLIVION. On Lexi, striped knit tube dress used as top paired with corset belt and flounce skirt. On Tina, cotton knit tube dress used as top, op-art print bias skirt, shirt used as shrug and patchwork belt used as choker



2. ENCOUNTER. On Lexi, tunic top worn over a strapless pleated dress with a corset belt. On Tina, strapless box pleat dress with polka dot pleated mini used as apron and bustled skirt with black piping as cape

In living color

Text and styling by Tim Yap
Photos by Xander Angeles
ALL CLOTHES BY KATE TORRALBA (0917-6221229)

ONE of the reasons the TV show Dynasty was such a hit was that it introduced one of the first fully developed gay characters on American television—Steven Carrington. This simple move broke barriers, to put it mildly.

From a privately discussed matter, the gay came out of the closet.

In the Philippines, although we perceive ours to be an open and accepting society, many are still in the dark about what pride activists are fighting for. It is heart-rending to realize that there are still people who are effectively "in hiding."

Homophobia is frowned upon, especially in forward-thinking and sophisticated societies. Although some people pretend to be cool with it—just like people who deny racist attitudes—Freudian slips in intimate conversation give away their prejudices.

Although a lot of straight people are seen as fag nets and fag stags (straight men and women who are close to gay men), there are still a notable plenty who are disguising their myopia in vain.

Witnessing not-so-subtle signs—such as getting hives at the mention of places like Bed and La Di Da, and getting queasy when gay friends talk about their intimate lives—and sometimes outright bigotry, we realize there is still a lot of work to do.

Filipino parents can be very tolerant and accepting of gay friends, as long as they're sure their children are straight.

Many snide remarks are still tossed about in the workplace about physical distance being necessary between guys.

Lesbian activities are kept underground, since they are not as "out, loud" as their male counterparts.

On a music channel once, we saw an interview with The Dawn. They ended all their sentences with, "And I'm not gay." Something like—"Hi! I'm John, I'm 30 years old, I play this and that—and I'm not gay."

And then they laughed.

Why is *that* such a big deal?

I have this lesbian friend who is based in London. She was out one night with her girl friend and, before parting ways, they kissed and hugged. A truck driver parked his vehicle and started screaming at them. "F#""&ing c%^ts!" They were dumbfounded. My friend cried all night.

Here, even some gay activists haven't come out to their own families and friends!

Says one: "I'm out only when I'm in Malate."

What does that say about the world we live in? If the images on this page make your stomach churn, what does that say about you?

No wonder people find it so hard to open the door and step out of the proverbial closet.

How can the fight for acceptance continue if so many of those in the forefront take tentative steps at best?

This is not a plea for the world to embrace homosexuality—lock, stock and barrel. Mere respect will suffice. It is only with respect that more individuals would find the courage to come out—not just tiptoe out, but *jump* out to relish the freedom that is their birthright.

Sure, the road is not paved. But remember that there is a pot of gold at the rainbow's end.

CREATIVE DIRECTION BY TIM YAP
MODELS: LEXI SCHULZE AND TINA PAMINTUAN
MAKE UP BY CINDY PINEDA FOR SHU UEMURA
HULA HOOPS FROM SM DEPARTMENT STORE
KATE TORRALBA OUTFITS AVAILABLE AT ISHQ- G/F ASTORIA
PLAZA, J. ESCRIVA DRIVE, ORTIGAS CENTER
SPECIAL THANKS TO TINA TINIO OF SHU UEMURA

5. THE KISS.

3. CATALYST. On Lexi, asymmetrical top and mini with fuzzy pastel trim and patchwork wrist bag. On Tina, strapless dress with ribbon applique; convertible tube top used as sash with two tone sash and circular wrist bag

4. FIREWORKS. On Lexi, mosaic print bustier top with white mini with pastel trim. On Tina, Picasso print necklace halter top

'If I were gay, I would go out with . . .?'

By Bianca Valerio

WITH extreme caution, was how respondents to our mini-survey regarded the question. You know, like an ultimatum, something life-threatening.

And all we wanted was to have a little fun, by coaxing them into contemplating sexuality beyond traditionally accepted norms. In short, the invitation was to play a little game of "You Play Me and I Play You."

The majority replied by saying that answering the question would compromise their careers, personal lives, even familial ties. A few gave reasons we understood, absolutely.

To all of them we say: Hey, guys, we were not asking you to come out of the closet; just to *imagine* you were in one. Nor were we asking you to trash your known preferences; just to toy with the idea of possible alternatives.

Once in a while, we've got to laugh at ourselves. For example, many straight women should admit that watching Angelina Jolie in "Tomb Raider" made them break out in a telling sweat.

Appreciating the physical attributes of someone of the same gender is nothing to be

IF/G2

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13. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification upon presentation of official receipt as proof of purchase, valid ID and registered notice.
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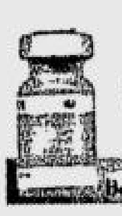

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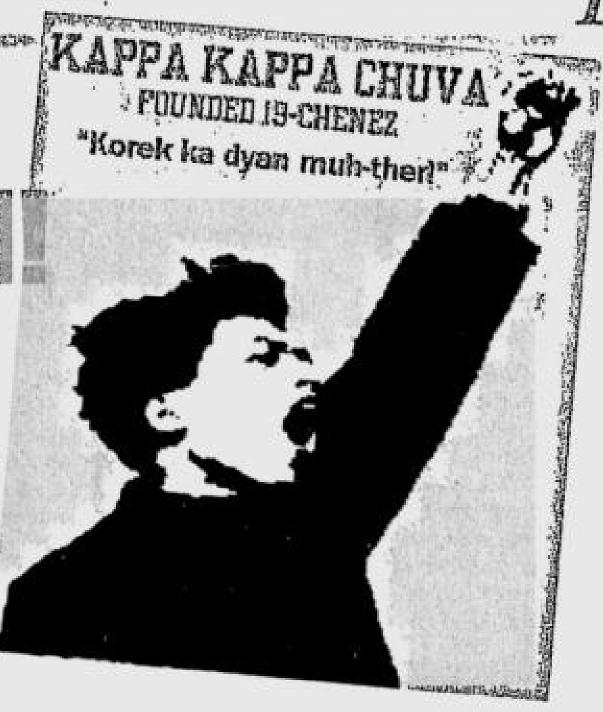

I am straight, but I am a Chuvan ally, and a proud one

SWAK!

by Lex

FINALLY, after centuries of waiting, the rumor has been confirmed.

It exists!

There is a secret circle whose power far surpasses the combined force of the government and its army. To enter this society, one gives up everything and renounces the world. Betraying The Code means certain death! Even the name of the group is kept secret from the public, and is only (reverently) whispered about among the high and mighty.

The list of present members include three senators, 43 and a half Congressmen (one is very short), seven National Artists, dozens of TV bigwigs, countless actors and actresses, and three out of the top 10 Filipino tycoons.

This illustrious group is so difficult to break into, that much as I wanted to join, I was weighed down by very serious disqualifications.

However, after being blindfolded with an Hermés scarf and driven around in the trunk of a BMW for three hours, some members of the brotherhood deemed me fit to be brought to their national headquarters, a majestic building within the campus of a revered university.

Freed of my blindfold once inside the lobby, I made out the words above a giant seal: "Kappa Kappa Chuva Chenez."

A little later, I was granted an interview by the group's leaders, called "Chuvans" or "Chuvanians." These are my findings.

Chuvan Mission Statement:

"We exist to accept each other's diversity, and to have a positive impact on the world around us."

Initiation Rites:

1) Isolation from family.

2) Years of struggle with put-downs and mockery.

3) Disapproving looks and acid comments.

Colors:

Purple for male Chuvans, because it's between blue, which is male, and red, which is female. Orange for females, because on the color wheel it's directly opposite purple.

Battlecry: "Right on sis-tah!"

Password: "Kappakappacometopapa!"

Motto: "Korek ka dyan muh-ther!"

Proverb: "The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all."

March: "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge

Anthem: "Vogue" by Madonna

Hymn: "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor

Ideals: Equality, empowerment and, above all else, beauty.

Idols: Madonna, Diana and Barbra (the Chuvan holy trinity)

Rivals: Machonians of the Alpha Phi Ano Phi Fraternity

* * *

I came out of the interview a changed man, certainly with a new found respect for Chuvans. From now on I, a non-Chuvan male, will always stand beside these new friends, even as they rumble with the Machonians. I am a Chuvan ally and I am proud!

For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com

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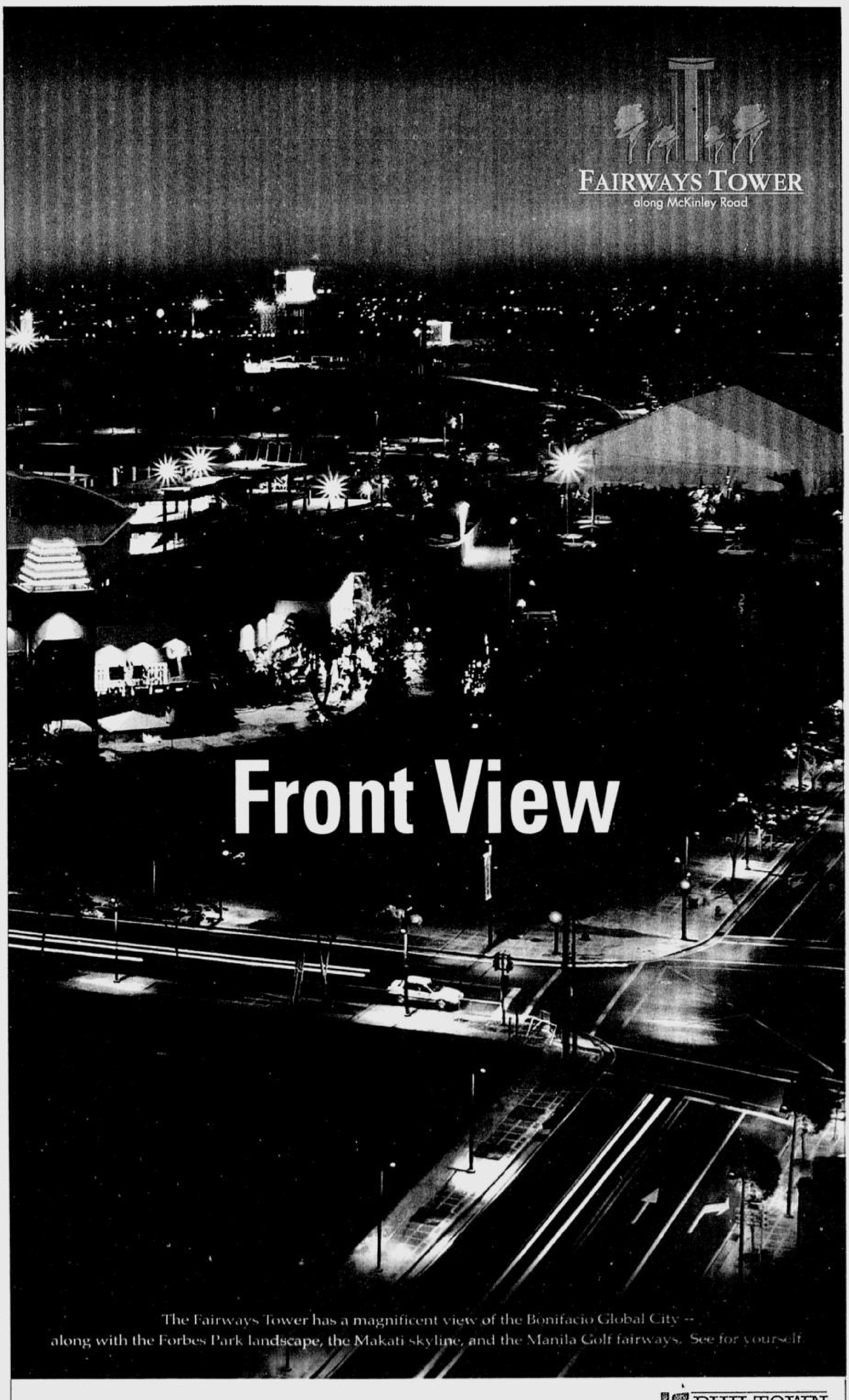

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A fag net's manifesto

All I need to know I learned from my gay friends

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

I AM a fag net.

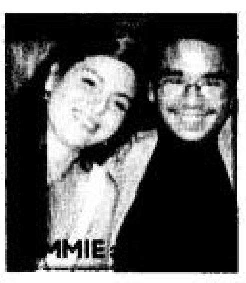
I never admitted this to anyone before, although deep inside, I've known it all along. I've lived for the longest time with all the telltale signs: the instant connection with my gay hair stylist, the pangs of self-recognition whenever I watched "Will and Grace," the knowledge of obscure Miss Universe trivia such as the name of Miss Botswana, who edged out **Miriam Quiambao** for the title in 1999: **Mpule Kwelagobe.**

All the signs, indeed, and still I refused to acknowledge my true nature . . . until one night, while out in Malate with my closest gay friend, Eli. After we walked a crowded street saying the usual hellos, he observed: "My goodness, you know more gay guys than I do! Girl, you are the biggest fag net I know!" Just as I tried to deny it, I was whisked away, into the arms of a transvestite in leather pants. At that moment I realized I could no longer deny it. I was one of them!

What is a fag net (magnet), a.k.a. fag hag? The moniker refers to girls who have an uncanny ability to attract and befriend gay men. Fag nets are not homosexual females; heck, we're straighter than re-bonded hair. There's just something in us that is naturally inclined towards the third sex—it could be the sense of humor, as in finding extreme amusement in reenacting the parade of nations at the Miss U pageant. It could also be a healthy devotion to the male species, especially the ones who look like **Orlando Bloom**, or that hot Latino in the "Charlie's Angels" sequel. Dare I say it could even be a certain awe or envy we hold for flamboyant, carefree gay men in general? It could be all these things and so much more, but the simple fact of the matter is: gay guys are so much fun to be around. They're cool and everybody knows it.

TANYA of Uno.

Perhaps that extra chromosome really does wonders for their character makeup. Having a gay best friend is like having the best of both worlds. If women are from Venus and men from Mars, well, gay guys are from Saturn—voted Most Fabulous Planet in an informal poll. They're smart, they can discuss world politics and religion, then just as effortlessly express hard-line stances on why **Nicole Kidman, not Halle Berry**, should have won last year's Best Actress Oscar. They are faithful friends and confidantes. And they are funny. God, are they funny.



Abi Aquino, another self-confessed fag net and author of "Drama Queen," admits, "I've never been attracted to the macho kinda guy; I've always been drawn to men who are funny. And you know, men who are usually super funny turn out to be gay." EMI Philippines' marketing director **Twinky Lagdameo** agrees: "Gay men just have a way of turning a dull situation around. They have a bizarre and hilarious way of looking at the most mundane things."

My friendship with gay guys has taught me to embrace life more fully and view things from a different, albeit off-center perspective. Here, I'd like to share little bits of wisdom, my Fag-Net Manifesto that consists of some of the best things that I and other fag nets in the city have picked up.

#10 If one must suffer to look good, then so be it.

I remember the day I was roasting under the merciless summer sun while roaming the streets of Makati with a gay friend. While I was close to ripping my sleeveless tank top to shreds and plunging headfirst into the hollow of Manong Sorbetero's ice cream cart, he was extremely at ease in jeans, and a long-sleeved, black turtleneck shirt worn under a suede polo. Oh, and a stylish fishing hat. I asked how he could stand it and, uh, maybe he needed therapy? He simply said he was feeling very "Fall in New York."

Another fag net, writer **Kage Gozun**, learned from her gay best friend that Shiseido was the best makeup for Asian skin tones and that spoons dipped in ice water were the best cure for eye bags. "I've also learned that it's far more important to be stylish than trendy, and that accessories are *key*," she says. "Oh, also that we can all be as fabulous as Wonder Woman."

#9 The most versatile word today is "chuva."

This word that seems to have replaced "tienes" in gayspeak is the *mot du jour* that can mean just about anything. This word can also be conjugated, as in: "*Anong chuva 'yan*? (noun); "*Chu-muva ka na?*" (simple past verb); "*Chuchuva kami sa* Tagaytay *bukas*" (simple future); and "*Kung chu-chuva ka, chuchuva rin ako*" (conditional future tense). Little-known trivia: "Chuva" is actually the Portuguese word for "rain."

#8 It is necessary to spoil oneself at least once a week, not just to look good, but also to feel good.

Weekly full body massages, splurging on those funky denim hipsters you've been eyeing for weeks, buying—not burning—Massive Attack's latest album. These little indulgences are worth your hard-earned money because they can turn your day around and somehow make you sleep better at night.

#7 Blessed are the humble straight men in spirit.

Humility is a virtue. Just because you're a straight guy and a gay man talks to you, doesn't mean he is hitting on you. Unless you're a certain underwear model featured on huge billboards around the metropolis.

#6 Honesty is the gay man's policy.

Ask a straight man if you've gained weight and chances are he'd shrug indifferently and say you look fine. "If you want the truth, get it from a gay man," says restaurateur **Kimmie Assad**. "Gay men are honest. That's what I like most about them. Plus, there are no hurt feelings neither one of us has anything to lose!" Gay men would tell you straight that you've been sporting a little too much behind lately. If you forget to pluck your eyebrows for a few days, they'll casually remind you about early auditions for the "Frida" sequel.

#5 Loyalty is sacred.

Gay guys are some of the kindest, most thoughtful and generous friends you could have. "I noticed our friendship transcends jealousy and envy, compared to friendships with the same or opposite sex," says fag net med student **Bambi Lacson**. Perhaps this loyalty is rooted in a bond of absolute trust and openness, even when it comes to subjects you normally wouldn't discuss with hetero peers. **Tanya Medina**, editorial director of Uno magazine, swears her gay best bud has "taught me to be more open about my personal feelings and my sexuality."

(A word in edgewise here: A gay man could also be your worst enemy.)

#4 The art of criticizing without offending is grounded in wit, subtlety and deliverance.

Gays seem to have the talent for criticizing people and situations without sounding offensive, maybe because their comments are always just so funny. I saw **Mariah Carey's** "Glitter" with a couple of gay guys and never stopped laughing. Somehow, their cattiness is tempered with sensibility—it is a talent, acquired perhaps from being judged and criticized all their lives. Bar none, when it comes to the art of detraction, gay guys are gods . . . er, goddesses.

#3 There is a middle ground between being a painful snob and being utterly boring.

It's called being down to earth. Gay people have taught me that you can be **Jimmy Choo**—heeled and clad in the cheapest *ukay-ukay* finds, and still be fabulous. I call it being fabulously real, and it's about knowing who you are and not being ashamed of it. "The one thing I hate the most is hypocrisy," says DJ/writer **Lexi Shulze**, "I find myself highly attracted to the quality of being *real* that my gay friends have. They are fully aware of who they are and who they are not."

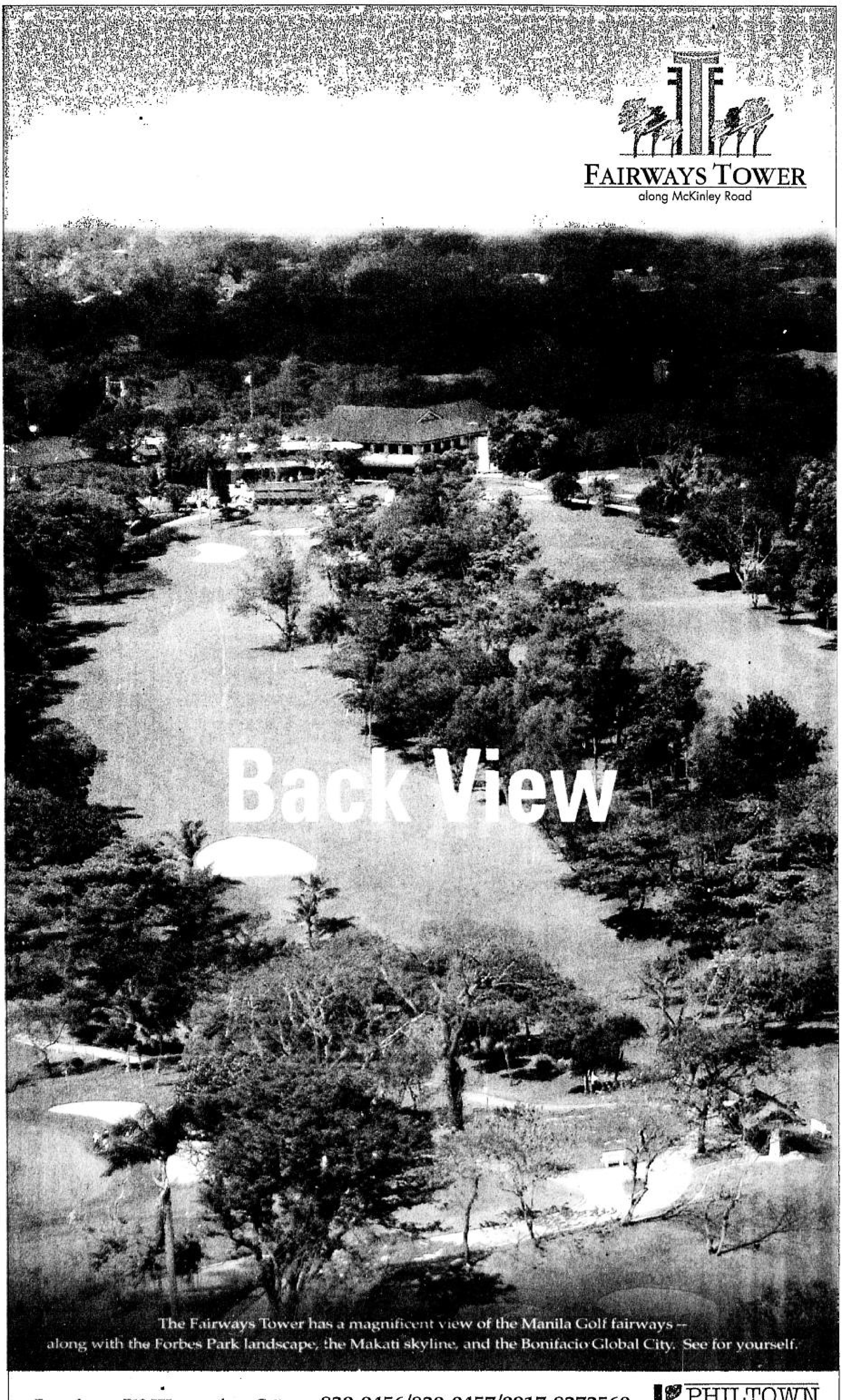
#2 Think out of the box, or don't think at all.

Trust a gay man to come up with some of the most outrageous, colorful ideas. If we tend to see things black and white with touches of gray, they'll see magenta, periwinkle and chartreuse. Case in point: I was invited to a bridal shower whose theme was "Girly girl." I was about to show up in the expected pink and lace, until my gay friend suggested that I do a Lolita and don a Catholic schoolgirl attire instead. True, the girls asked me where the Halloween party was, but I did have a lot of fun just dressing out of the ordinary.

# 1 . . . and the biggest lesson I have learned from all gay men I've met, known and befriended from all over the world, from all walks of life . . . by far the most enlightening:
Madonna rules!

Enough said.

Email the author at inca_orange@yahoo.com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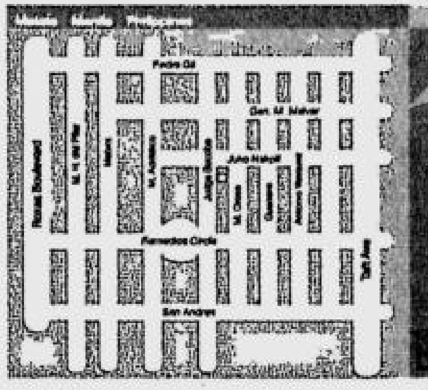

Gay Guide Manila

(Part I)

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At once exciting and intimidating, flamboyant and closeted, diverse and homogenized, this proud gay ghetto is not yet as grand in scale as it should be. Yet with its bohemian flair and resilient spirit, Malate can be just as stimulating as its counterparts abroad. So in celebration of Gay Pride Day today, and to toast the 2nd Annual White Party along Orosa Street tonight, we'd like you to meet the wild and crazy creatures that make Malate truly the gay-est destination in the country. Following is a totally biased listing that includes the best places for people-watching, drinking, eating, dancing and shopping, and the places you should visit only once and never return to.

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BED—ON (Orosa-Nakpil) Courtyard

The latest and oh-so-in addition to the burgeoning Malate nightscape. With interiors drenched in red light and furnishings of round padded couches, this dance club turns out a steamy crowd of sexy shirtless men and dangerous drag queens gyrating to the compelling beats dished out by DJs who deftly feed the frenzy weekend after weekend. Show off your bod and head for the ledge for some go-go boy action. Then find the hidden aquarium and get a prize!

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This steel-and-marble uber-chic French Moroccan restaurant slowly shape-shifts into a bar after dinner as its fashionable and fabulous—meaning gay, of course—regulars start to arrive in droves. Food and martinis are splendid, which is why this *tres* gay-friendly establishment packs it in even during the early dinner hours, and sometimes even at brunch. Home to A-list homos, the gay mafia, and Manila's "hi-so" crowds during late night transformations on weekends, Fidel has a lounge-y atmosphere beefed up by excellent house music. Truly a good chatty prelude to jumping onto the hi-jinks out on the street. Try the al fresco tables for a more visceral experience of the shenanigans. Open everyday, but most fun on Fridays and Saturdays.

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Women's clothes and accessories are the main finds in this cute little boutique, which is unsurprisingly popular with "lipstick lesbians" and the occasional little lost "tranny" searching for that elusive perfect fit. Get your fill of stilettos, slinky dresses, cute tees, and lovely accessories for the modern woman in you (she's in there somewhere). Open everyday.

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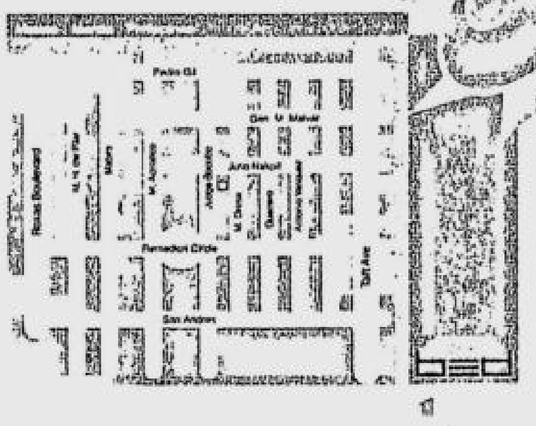

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- Finally, Harry Potter book 5 is here! Page 3
- Short Story: The Day Max Flew Away Page 4
- She Lives with Diabetes Page 6

Club-a-dub-dub!

Who's got the coolest club?

IT'S time to think about what clubs you should be joining this school year! Of course, there are the usual clubs: Science Club, Math Club, Scouting, Art Club, Theater Club, Glee Club, etc. But there are schools out there with unique, new and super-cool clubs. JUNIOR INQUIRER gives you the lowdown on the newest school clubs in town. Get ready for some really great ideas!

Toing! Klang! Twanggg!

Wanna clang on the kulintang? Your nose just perfect for a nose flute? You can lay your your hands on all those strange and wonderful musical instruments if you're in a club such as the Ethnic Ensemble. Miriam College Grade School and The Learning Tree—both in Quezon City—have an ethnic ensemble.

Alay Buhat

This isn't a quite a club but a service program. Older boys of Xavier School in San Juan help their younger and smaller schoolmates by carrying their bags. Awww…that's really sweet!

Bot-Crazy Kids

Lego pieces are not just for making little robots that stand still. La Salle Greenhills (San Juan) and La Salle Zobel (Muntinlupa City) both have robotics clubs where kids can build various creature-bots that walk, blink, make sounds and even pick up other Lego-Bots.

First Aid First

What do you do when you classmate suddenly gets a nosebleed? Not run away and shout "Ahhh! Bloooood!" Kids learn the basics of first aid in a club called Junior First Aiders. Miriam College Grade School has a troop of ever-ready "good Samaritans".

Kids Have Rights

Kids in Southville International School in Las Piñas City have a club where they learn all about children's rights, meet important people like the mayor and create art for the cause of peace. They call it the UNESCO Club.

Little Shrinks

Kids learn how to be good listeners and help schoolmates with their troubles in St. Benedict College's Junior Counselors Club. This Muntinlupa City school really believes in learning how to listen well!

That's MY Web!

Tired of browsing through websites created by other people? Join or form a club like PAREF Woodrose's Website Artists Club. This Muntinlupa City club teaches kids the basics of building and publishing a web page. Kids can also trade tips and tricks on web-building.

Ni Hao! Konnichiwa! Bonjour!

Miriam College Grade School has clubs for kids who want to learn how to speak other languages and learn about other cultures. They have a French Club and a Nihon Kabaru (to learn Japanese). Xavier School's Chinese Culture Club promotes everything Chinoy-from food, books, language, clothes, costume and traditions.

Salin Kamay

Miriam College Grade School's sign language club brings hearing kids and hearing-impaired kids together. They talk, they play games, they laugh and they have fun.

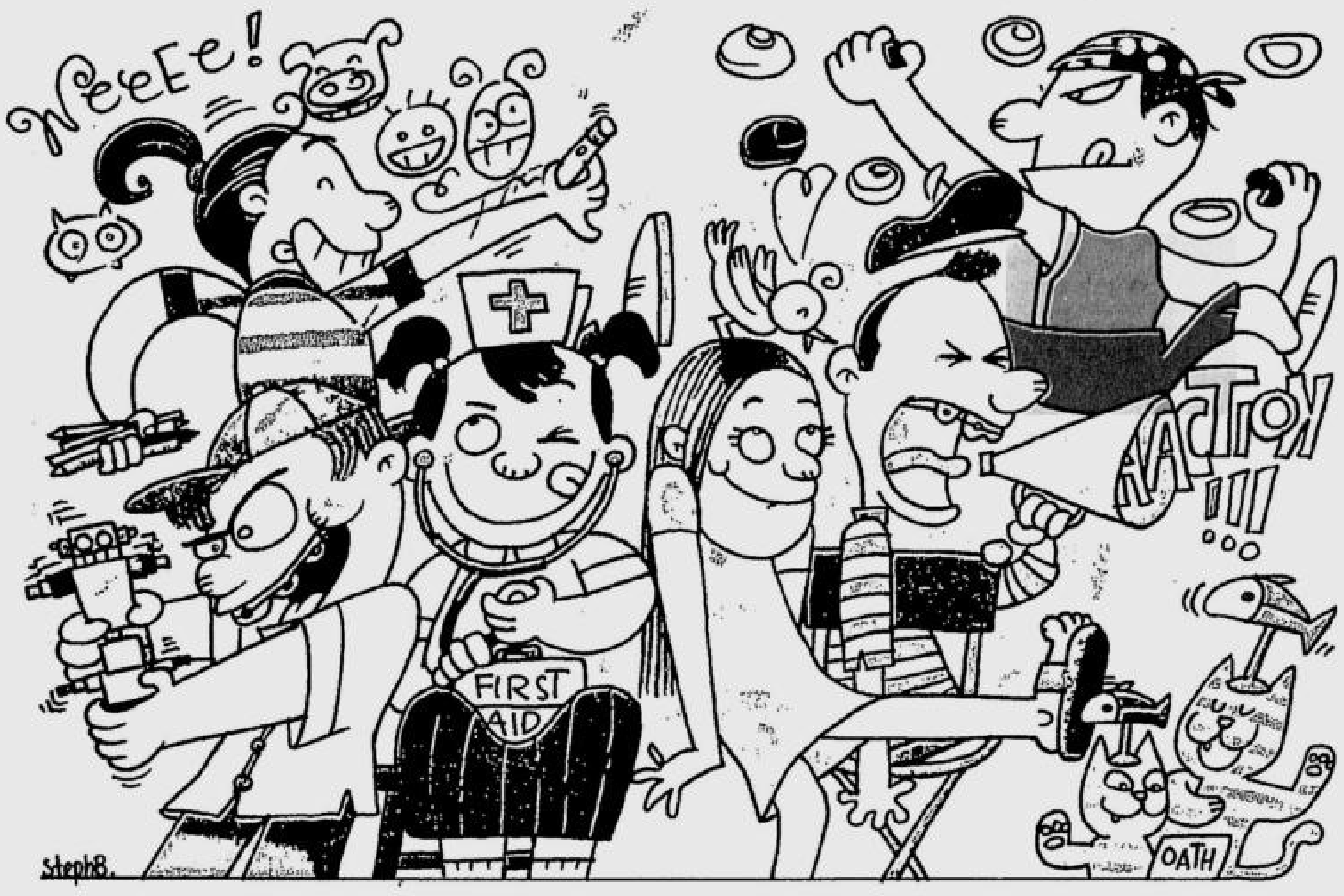
Blackpepper Club

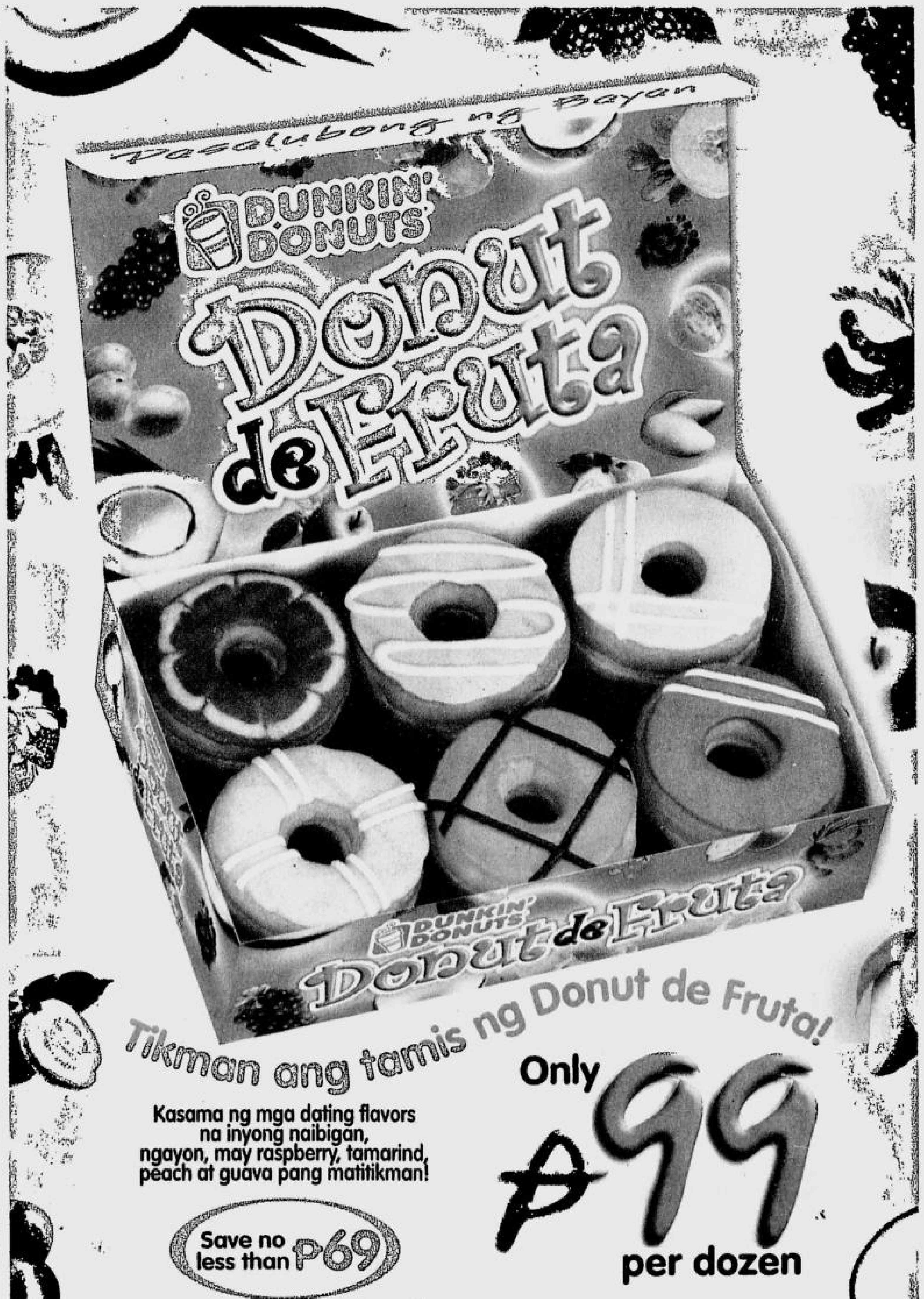
This group from Adya Elementary School in Batangas plants black pepper and other plants all around their community. It's a science club that cares for the environment!

For more information about these clubs and perhaps how to set them up at your own school, talk to your teachers. You may also contact the following schools.

School Directory

De La Salle Greenhills - 02-721-2000
De La Salle Zobel - 02-850-9242; 02-809-1857
Miriam College - 02-580-5400
PAREF Woodrose School - 02-850 6380
St. Benedict College - 02-722-2356
The Learning Tree - 02-912-5102
Xavier School - 02-723-0481
Southville International School - 02-825-6374





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Child-Friendly Awardee
UNICEF-PPI CHILD-FRIENDLY NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALIST AWARDS

2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Survey says-

Pinoy kids watch bad TV shows

By Eline Santos

PINOY KIDS these days watch bad shows that display poor values and are more appropriate for adults, a nationwide survey revealed.

The Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television conducted a survey among 193,646 kids aged 8 to 12 from around the country. They asked about their favorite TV shows, and favorite male and female TV star.

Part of the results of the Anak TV Youth Vote showed that the top three shows were soap operas "Bituin" and "Sana ay Ikaw na nga" and noontime show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Three top media experts said that these shows were meant for adult audiences and not really appropriate for kids.

"Compared to my children's time, television today is like a vast desert," said sociologist and TV host Randy David. "There are hardly any programs for pre-schoolers."

Another expert, TV critic and Inquirer Saturday Special editor Nestor Torre observed, that sometimes kids tend to imitate what they see on TV.

"So, when TV hosts insult women and poke fun at the elderly," he stressed "young viewers may think it's OK and even cool to do the same, with terrible results."

Dr. Nick Tiongson, dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication pointed out that people's disabilities and certain traits were often made fun of, "where the midget becomes the butt of many jokes."

He added that soap operas make it seem "good to play the victim. To capitalize on tragedy."

Here are the rest of the results from the nationwide survey of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television:

Favorite TV Program

Bituin
Sana ay Ikaw na nga
Magandang Tanghali Bayan
Wansapanataym
Sine'skwela

Favorite Female TV Star

Kristine Hermosa
Claudine Barreto
Jolina Magdangal
Judy Ann Santos
Tanya Garcia

Favorite Male TV Star

Jericho Rosales
Dingdong Dantes
Robin Padilla
John Pratts
Aga Muhlach

WHAT do you think?

Do you agree with the article? Do you disagree? How can kids guard against watching bad TV shows? Send your opinions and ideas to ji@inquirer.com.ph!

JOURNAL
PAGES

My Hometown

Legaspi Dreaming

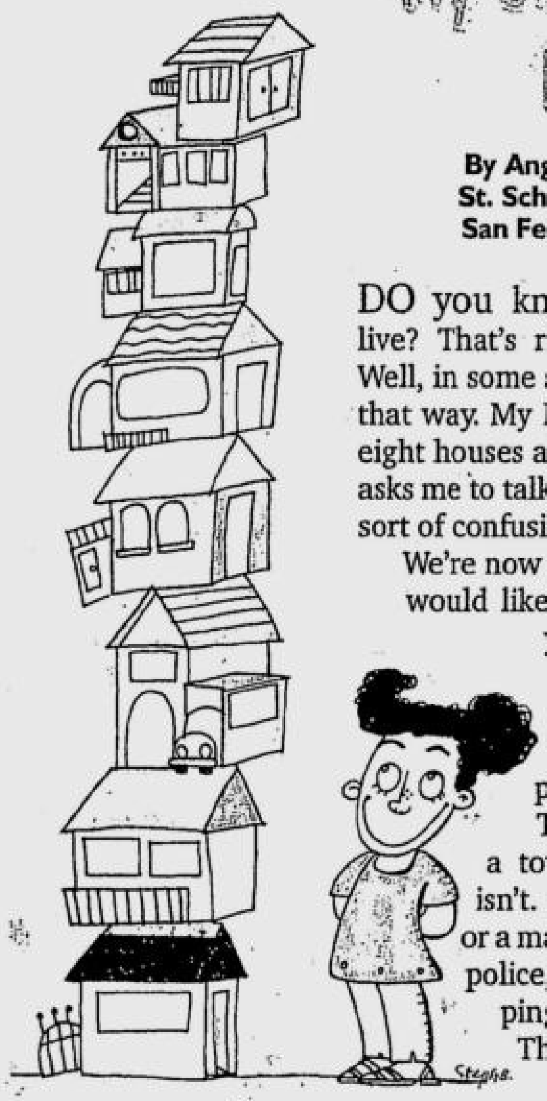
By Julliane Moira S. Sy
Philippine Science High School
Goa, Camarines Sur

"EVERY morning, when you look out from the window of your room, what do you see?" I asked the new friends I made in a students' conference in Baguio City. Some said, "our family garden" while some answered, "our neighbor's house." When it was their turn to ask me, I replied right away. From what I told them, they easily figured out from what province I came from. You know what I answered? "I see the Mayon Volcano of course!"

Yes, I come from the Bicol Region. I live in Legaspi City. The Mayon Volcano towers my view anywhere I go in the province of Albay. For me, it serves as my guide and my protector, a sign that makes me proud that I come from the place where such unique mountain stands. On the other hand, it also represents something I fear because it can erupt and destroy not only the land but also the lives of my fellow Bicolanos. Whenever people admire this mountain, my pride rises above all feelings in the world.

Legaspi/ p. 7

My Secret Subic Forest



By Angela Guzon Butalid
St. Scholastica's Academy
San Fernando, Pampanga

DO you know how gypsy families live? That's right, they keep moving. Well, in some sense our family has been that way. My Papa says we've occupied eight houses already. So when someone asks me to talk about my hometown, it's sort of confusing, really.

We're now living in Pampanga, but I would like to think that our three-year stay in the Subic Bay Freeport has been the most memorable and unique 'growing up' experience.

The Subic Freeport is like a town except that it really isn't. We don't have *barangays* or a mayor, but we have our own police, schools, hospitals, shopping places and subdivisions. The place is so nice and homey. And that's probably the reason why the people there are also so nice and friendly even though you get klutzy or ditzy. Uh...most of them anyway.

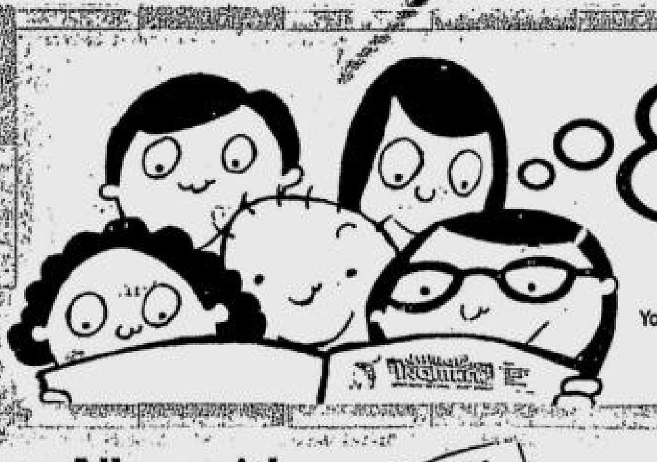
We lived in a place called Kalayaan. They said that's where the American officers lived when Subic was still with the US Navy. The place is so, so quiet (boy, do I mean quiet). Most days, you can only hear the leaves move when the wind blows. Sometimes it was so quiet that my *ate*'s visitors who lived in nearby Olongapo City would visit us and go crazy, saying "How can you live like this?" I bet you're wondering why it was that quiet at our place. Well, because... drum roll please...the place we lived in is located within a forest!

Yep! I'm not talking about a bunch of

My Secret/ p. 7

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Straight from JI Readers

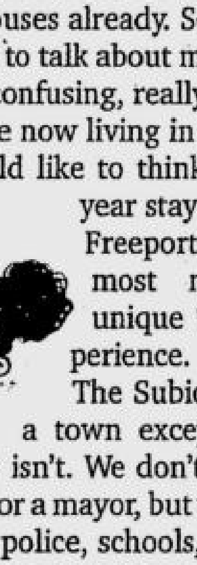
You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

From Albay with Love

DEAR Editor,

Thanks for making JUNIOR INQUIRER nationwide. I've been waiting for this kind of newspaper, so now I have something that could understand me. My first JI was last May 31, 2003. I find that articles in this newspaper are very good and encourage many children like me to continue reading further like me. And it also makes many children very creative and imaginative. God bless you and more power.—**JADE LORIA**, 12, Daraga, Albay

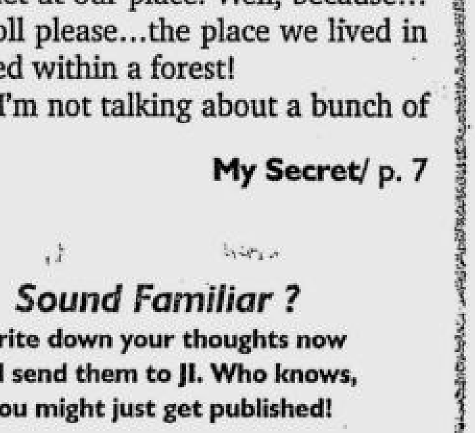
School Tips



I DO trust that all of us are in school already. Now that we're all getting used to school again, I have some useful tips.

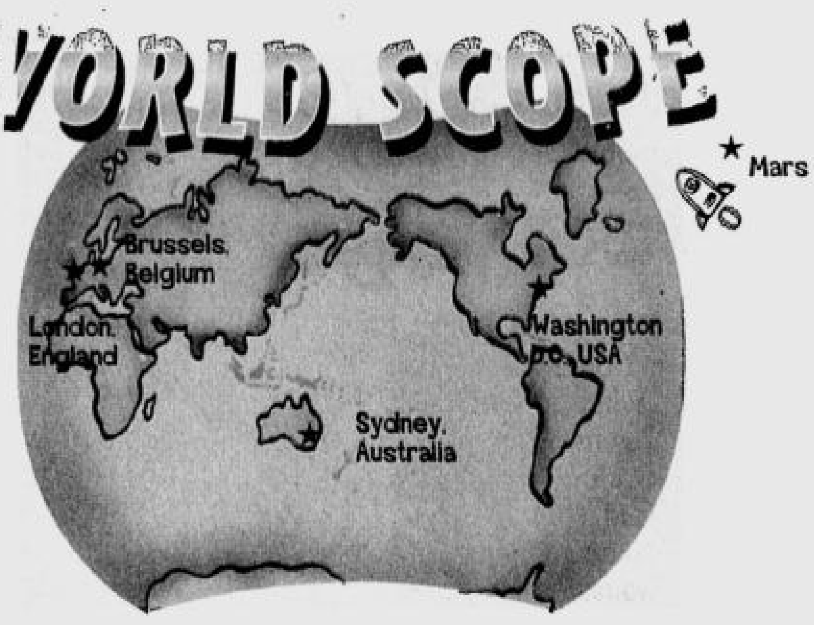
- Study your lessons in advance. This way you'll do better during recitations.
- Keep a handy notebook that will contain a calendar, your school schedule and your list of things to do.
- Eat recess and lunch with your friends.
- Submit all assignments and projects on time.
- Always participate in school activities.

If you follow these tips, you can keep your friends and have a great school year at the same time!—**MARK CASTILLO**, 12, La Salle Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

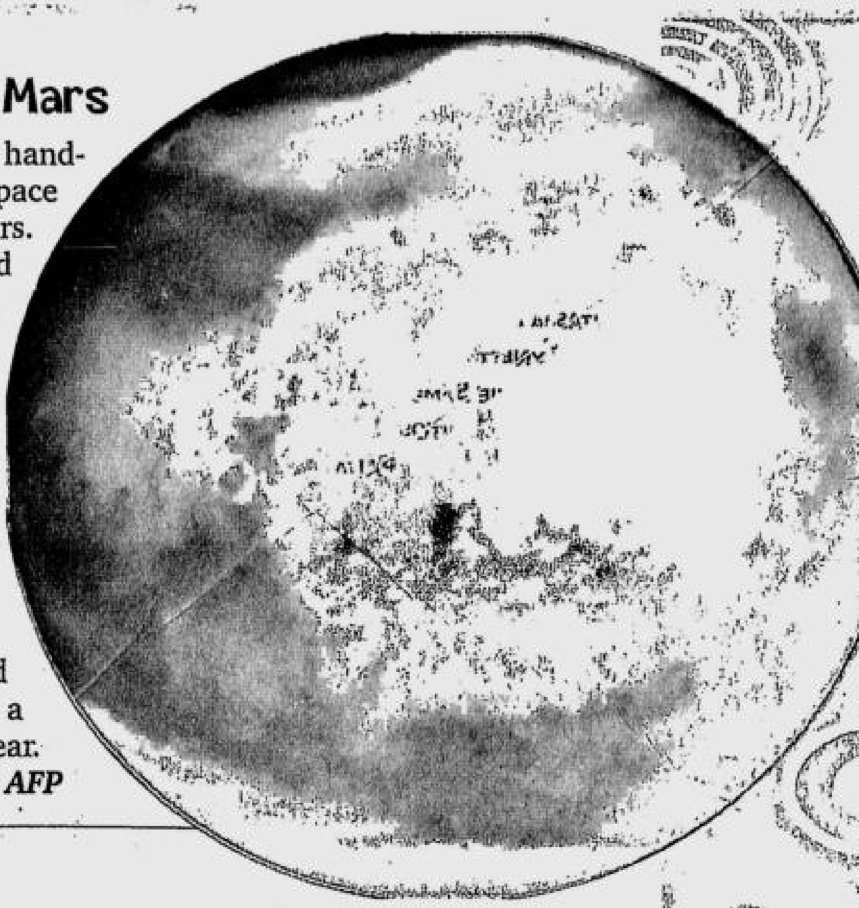


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WORLD SCOPE



Rendezvous with Mars



THIS July 2001 NASA handout shows a Hubble Space Telescope image of Mars. On August 27, Mars and Earth will come within 35 million miles of each other, the closest since 1924 and not to be matched until 2287. That's a long way by Earth standards, but only a short distance on the scale of the solar system. NASA, the European Space Agency and Japan are all sending a spacecraft to Mars this year. *AFP*

Mars' Messenger

THIS NASA composite photo shows one of Mars' two moons, Phobos, named after a messenger of the Roman god of war. About 0.006 times the size of Earth's Moon, Phobos is a potato-shaped object with dimensions 27 by 22 by 18 kilometers (17 by 14 by 11 miles). It orbits around the red planet about three times a day. *AFP*

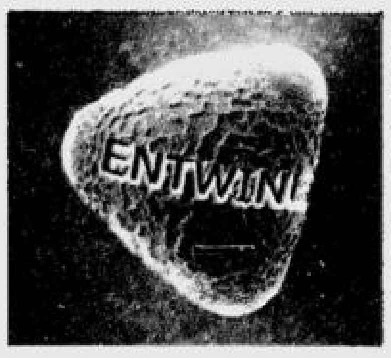
Aparecium!

No invisible ink here, but after three long years, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" finally appears in the hands of one of Harry's young fans. A man dressed as headmaster Albus Dumbledore looks on at Waterstone's bookshop in central London. *Reuters*

Cow-abungga!

A NUN looks at a painted cow placed in central Brussels as part of an exhibition called "Art on Cows." One hundred and eighty-seven cows have been decorated and will be dispatched around the city for a three-month exhibition to promote art before being sold for charity. *Reuters*

Microscopic Art



HOW do you write on something you can hardly see? Artist Stephanie Valentin used a beam of heavy gallium ions with an electron microscope to write on miniscule grains of pollen, such as "Entwine," etched on *erythrina cristagalli* (coral tree) pollen grain. The microscopic engravings were displayed 6,500 times bigger than their actual size in Sydney. *AFP*

KIDS at the book launch get sorted, play Muggle phone and try to come up with their own version of Harry's story. RUDY ESPERAS

Potter Book No. 5!

The world was waiting for the 5th Harry Potter book to come out and JI contributor Maria Zobel Certeza was right there to welcome it during its Philippine release.

THE day was June 21. Muggles swarmed to a place where candles floated in mid-air. They witnessed a sorting ceremony. What?! Have muggles invaded Hogwarts?!!

Don't freak out just yet. It was just a whole lot of Harry Potter fans in Manila witnessing the launching of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." The location is not Hogwarts. It was at Fully Booked at the Power Plant Mall in Makati City.

Excited muggles... I mean, readers arrived very early. The bookstore opened at exactly 7:01 a.m. to be in sync with the 12:01 a.m. worldwide release of the book. (You see, the store normally opens at 10 a.m.) A loud "Alohomora!" resounded from members of the Pinoy Harry Potter Club, an organization for Filipino Harry Potter fans. The store's employees dressed in robes and waved their wands.

Sorting Ceremony

Guests were treated to a sorting ceremony at the bookstore's children's section. Why, there was even a stool and a sorting hat! So lots of kids got a taste of what it's like to be a student of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. (Ehem! I was assigned to the House of Hufflepuff, by the way).

Guests got to play exciting games. There was one called "The story continues" where each participant was asked to write their own Harry Potter story, taking off from the first paragraph of the book. A game called "Muggle Phone" was played. It's kinda like "Pass the Message."

Harry Potter stickers, posters and bookmarks were given away as prizes.

What Happened?

So, what do you think happened in this fifth book? I asked some kids what they expected to read.

Fifteen-year-old Patricia Lee of Quezon City wanted to know what would happen to the-one-who-must-not-be-named who killed Harry's parents.

"How Harry will get along with Cho Chang," Patricia added, giggling.

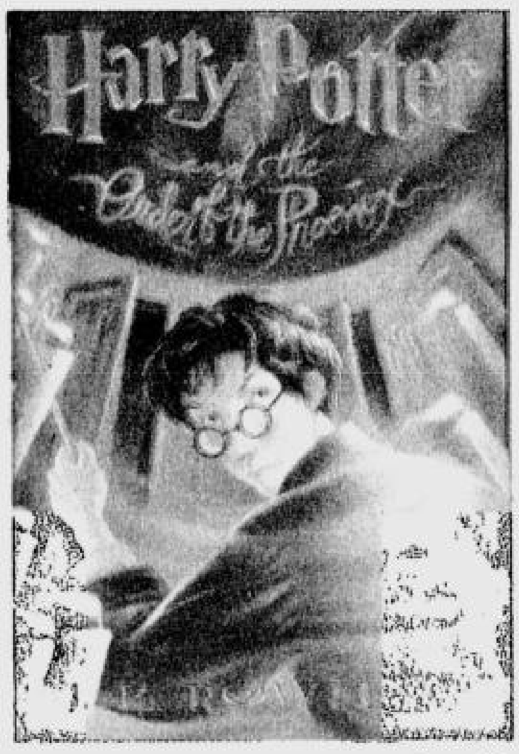
Inna Dado, 13, of Sta. Ana, Metro Manila wants to know more about Harry's mom, Lily Potter.

Seven-year-old Nicole Lintag wants to find out more about her favorite character Hermione.

The sight of muggles mingling with witches and wizards in Fully Booked lasted the entire day.

A magical day it was. Potter fans all over the Philippines must be all smiles and hugging their books. They have embarked on another Harry Potter adventure. Blimey! And so must I! Time to *disapparate*!

(Crack!!)


Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

THE early bookworms get the book first (L to R): Inez Ponce De Leon, Celize Aguilar, Sherie Del Rio at Powerplant Mall, Makati. RUDY ESPERAS

the day Max flew away

Written by Zarah Grace Calimag-Gagatiga
Drawings by Robert Gunnar Magnuson

NICO could not keep his eyes away from the maya birds. Some had green feathers. Some were colored red, blue and yellow. How could that have happened, he wondered as he stared at the little cages and the bird peddler. Weren't maya birds dark brown? At least that was the color of the maya birds that Nico always saw resting outside his bedroom window.

Nico liked birds. One summer, his father showed him a maya's nest in a crevice outside their balcony. He remembered seeing the mother bird feeding its babies with the little worms and grains it had collected from far away places. It was fascinating! The baby birds were so small, but their mouths were so wide! When the day came when the baby birds were strong enough to fly, Nico felt sad. Several days before the rainy season came, the little birds flew away. He had been hoping to raise them as pets.

"How much is one bird?" Nico finally asked the peddler.

"Twenty pesos," the peddler replied, picking up one small cage with a bird inside. The maya was colored red. It was not fidgety like the other birds in their little cages.

Nico thought deeply and made a quick mental computation of his allowance.

"Hmmm..." he said to himself quietly. "I can buy two birds, one for me and one for my little sister. That means I shouldn't buy myself a soda for four days."

Four days without soda, that was the sacrifice. He took P40 from his pocket. He chose the serious-looking red maya and a chirpy, jumpy and very active green one for Therese. He could imagine his sister's delight at his *pasalubong*. They would care for the birds together. They would feed them, sing them songs and tell them stories.

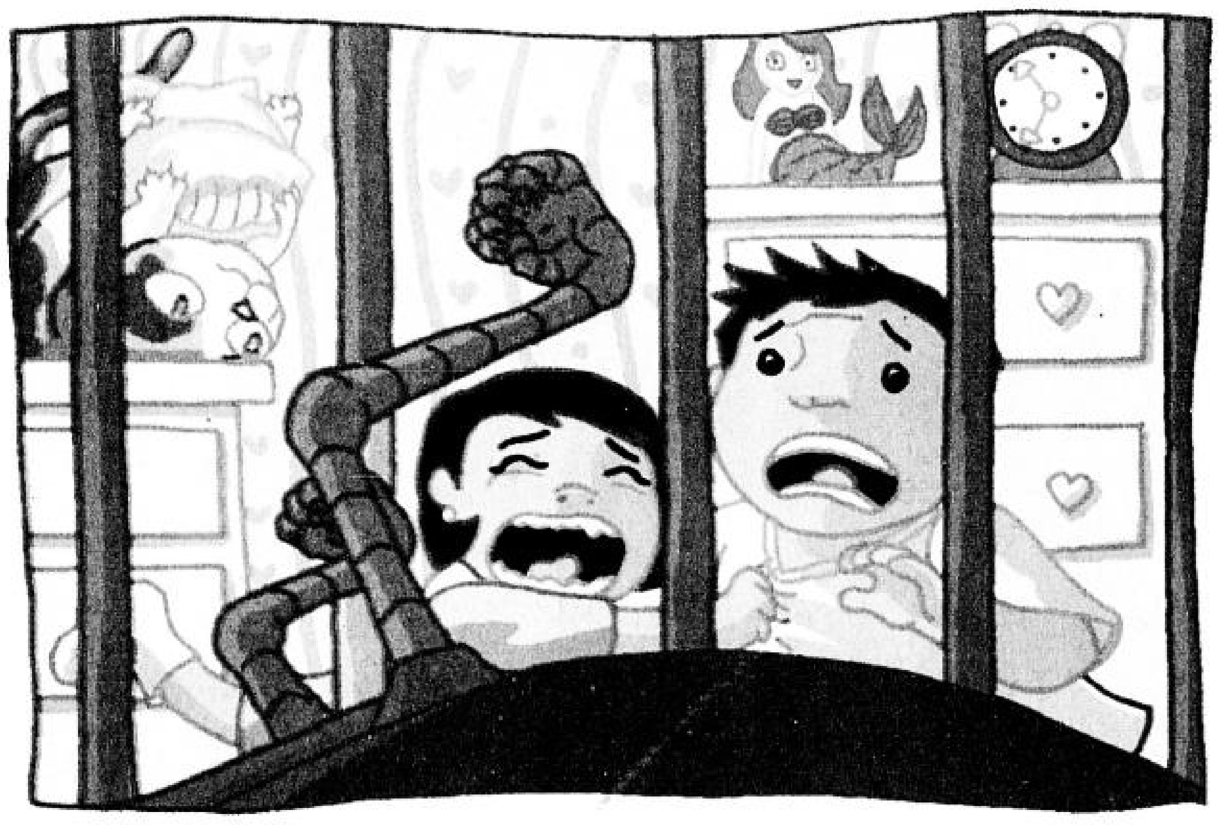
When his mother arrived to fetch him, she was surprised to see the two bird cages beside his lunch box and school bag.

"Are these yours, Nico?" she asked, her voice just a wee bit upset.

Nico nodded, unable to say anything. He could tell his mother wasn't totally pleased.

"Where did you get the money to buy them? How will you feed them? And what will your father say about this?" his mother asked.

Nico thought hard and fast for answers. He was very sure that an interrogation would happen before dinner.



ONLY THERESE was happy
when Nico and his mother g
"I've named them Max and
red one and April is the
proudly told his sister.
His father was very skepti
maya birds as pets.
"They are not domestic a
said to them later that night.
"I can take care of them l
Cheese," he replied.
"Cheese is a cat, Nico. May
free," his father scratched hi
they will die if you don't set
"No!" he shouted. "I won't l
Max and April."
"Well, you can give them
they will never eat it. They
care of themselves out there
tured out the window. "Poor b
even supposed to be paint
They're supposed to be dark
"But I love them. Therese
How could I let them go?" Ni
The question nagged Nico
was over.
He observed Max in his ca
hop from one corner to anoth
eat or drink. Nico's father co
all.
Nico went to his sister's b
was crying.
"April is dead," she sobbed
"Oh, no," was all Nico coul
Therese held the bird's lif
palm of her hands.
"You should think of setti
said.

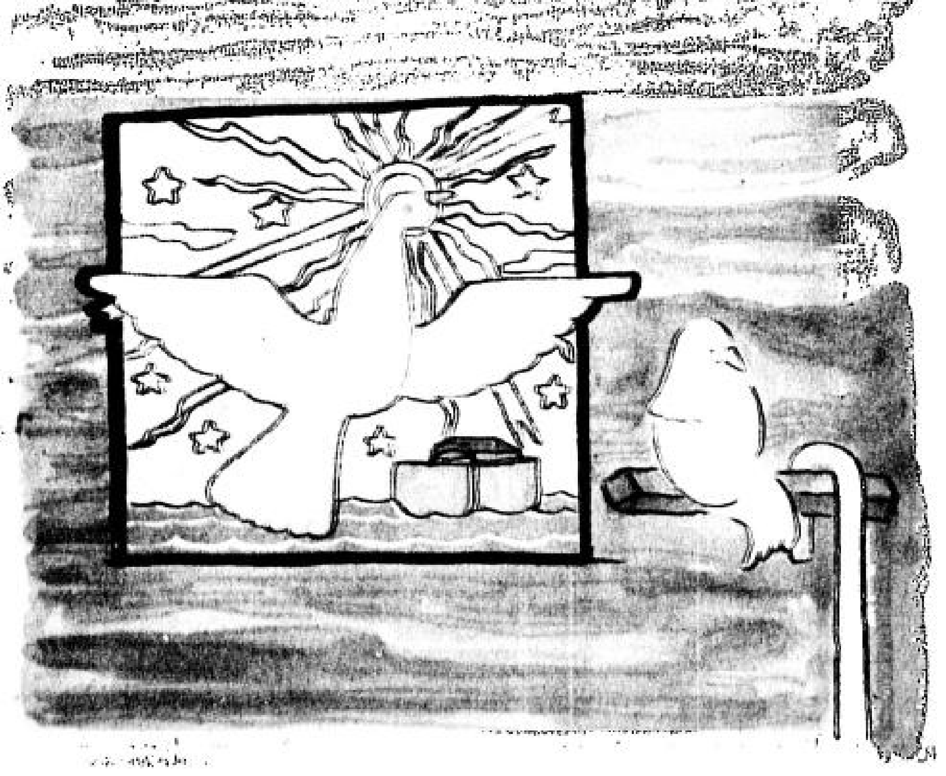
NICO WALKED back to his r
tears. He always wanted to
Cheese, the cat, is a great pe
many tricks that no normal d
pales in comparison with
Cheese is a smart cat. But th
something special. It flies!
His father entered the roo
him. "What's a bird doing in
its wings for if it can't fly?"
Nico could not help it any l
his crying face. His father pu
him. And when Nico was rea
ther was there to listen.
"I'll never buy a maya
promised and glanced at Ma
maya bird was sleeping.
"Is it too late to free him
asked his dad.
"That's what we'll do first
ing," his dad smiled.

THE MORNING sun was unu
o'clock that Saturday. The fi
after saying his morning pray
Max. The bird was still alive.

A Prayer of the Dove

By Liana Paterno

Oh Lord,
I am a sign of peace,
But why is there no peace here?
I am a dove,
As simple as the love in your heart.
Let me find a rose petal of joy and hope,
That will enlighten my fellow creatures here with me.
Shield us, dear Lord,
For we are fearful.
I am so overcrowded in this ark,
So please help me to be able to fly free once again.
I feel like my existence is going to end.
You are the One who has brought me into this world,
So please do not be the One to bring me away from it.
I only have morsels of food every week,
But I am thankful that I even have any of it.
Still encourage me to make more.
I know that I am smaller than others,



But please hear my prayer, Dear Lord.
Amen.

***Liana**, 10, is a Grade 4 student of International School Manila. She loves to write about many different things—animals, people, nonsense, biographies, autobiographies, and true stories and poems.*

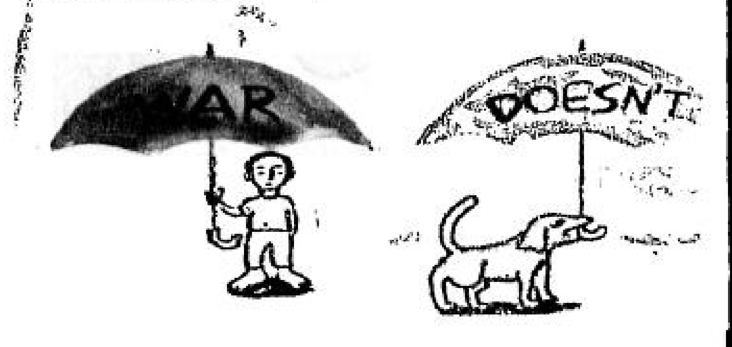
War Doesn't

By Erin Newton
Illustrations by Jose Bad

War doesn't help anything
So I ask, why do it?
Killing of people, women and men.
Shooting, bombing and destroying
That doesn't help.
Why can't the guns shoot out flowers of peace
and love?
Why war?
The killings of people

***Erin** is a Grade 5 student of International School Manila. H*
to start archery lessons. He wishes the world would care more
animals. He is an American citizen and is concerned about pe
to express his ideas and thoughts.

***Ouie, 38**, grew up keeping 3 cats and 7 dogs who all lived pe*
his cats and dogs could share a meal without fighting, so could



to see the birds
t home.
April. Max is the
reen one," Nico

al at the idea of

imals, Nico," he

ke I take care of

a birds should be
chin. "I'm afraid
hem free."
t them die. I love

ater and rice but
can actually take
." His father ges-
irds, they weren't
ed these colors.
rown."
loves them, too.
co said.
even after dinner

ge. All it did was
t Max would not
ld be right after

edroom. Therese

d say.
less body in the

g Max free," she

om fighting back
have a pet bird.
. He could do so
g could. Any cat
Cheese because
n again, a bird is

m and sat beside
cage? What are

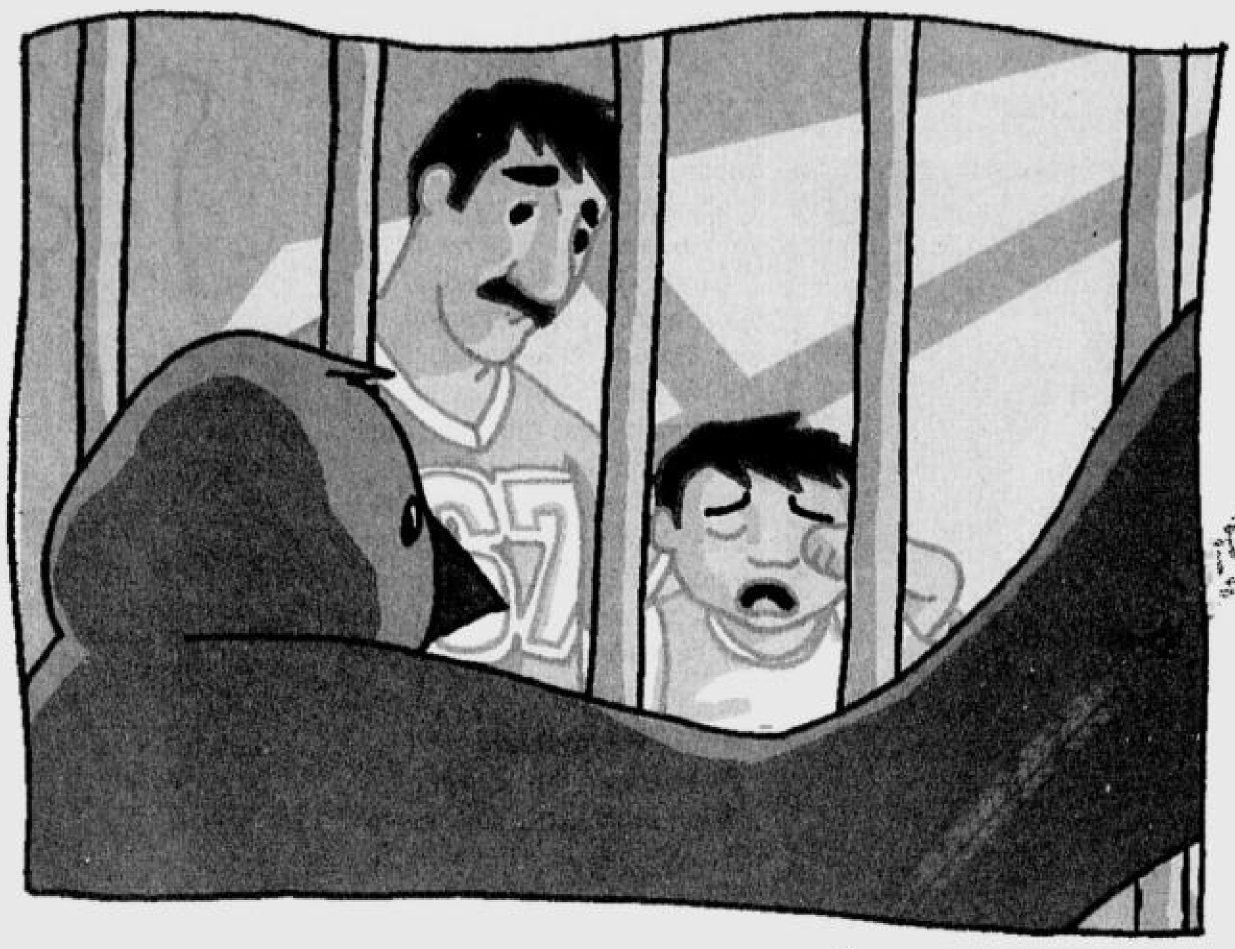
nger. He covered
his arms around
dy to talk, his fa-

bird ever," he
. The red painted

omorrow?" Nico

hing in the morn-

sually bright at 6
st thing Nico did
r was to check on



> **"I can buy two birds, one for me and one for my little sister... Four days without soda, that was the sacrifice."**

Nico carried the cage to the garden where his father and Therese were waiting for him. His father held a trowel and was covering a mound of soil with small pebbles. Cheese the cat sniffed at the ground where the bird was laid. Cheese purred when she saw Nico.

"Are you ready to set Max free?" his dad asked.

Nico nodded. His father opened the cage and Nico held Max gently in his hand.

"Goodbye, Max. Maybe I'll see you again. Remember my window, okay?" Max said. "You are welcome to build a nest in our second floor balcony like the maya bird we had last summer, okay?"

Max gently pecked at Nico's fingertips. Nico let go and Max flew higher and higher until he was only a dot in the bright blue sky.

"Breakfast is ready!" his mother called.

They all went back to the house while Cheese meowed and trailed behind them. Therese glanced back and scolded the cat. "Don't go digging up that bird, Cheese!"

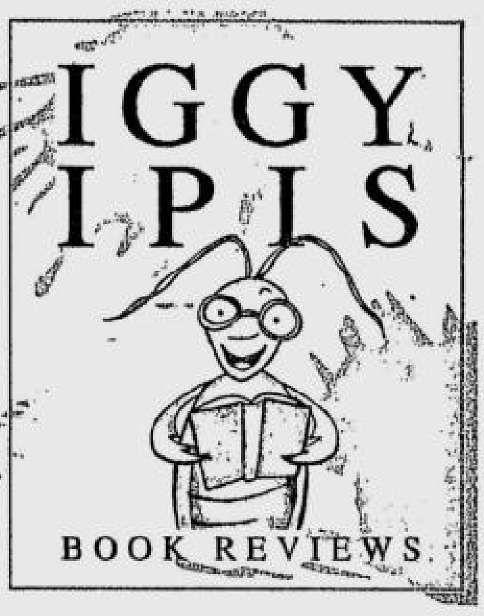
Nico sighed to himself and felt a strange happiness glowing inside him. He will never forget this day. The day he learned to let go of something he loved so much, so it can live.

***Zarah** is a teacher. She doesn't like cats or birds but her husband and two kids do. This is a true story. She is hoping that Max is out there building a nest and starting a family of its own.*

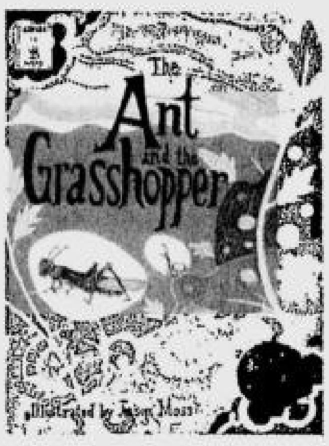
***Robert**, on the other hand, loves cats. He is the creator of the cartoon "Shirley's Pets." His wife, the real-life Shirley, is studying to become a veterinarian.*

You can be on For or By Kids too!

SEND US YOUR STORIES, POEMS, ESSAYS AND ART WITH SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE.
INCLUDE A BRIEF PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOURSELF AND A PICTURE.



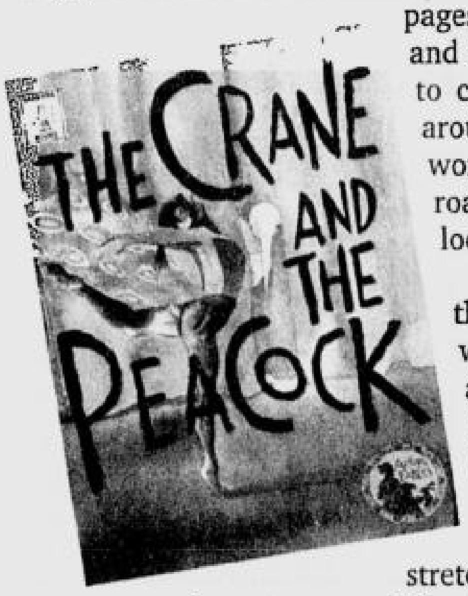
Aesop's Fables



I JUST loooove hanging out at bookstores! My latest find is Lampara Books' new series on **Aesop's Fables.**

You probably already know Aesop's stories and don't need anymore new books on it. But wait 'til you see Jason Moss' illustrations! (He's one of JUNIOR INQUIRER's contributing artists.) They were so good, the artworks were put on exhibit in Italy, Germany, Hong Kong and the USA.

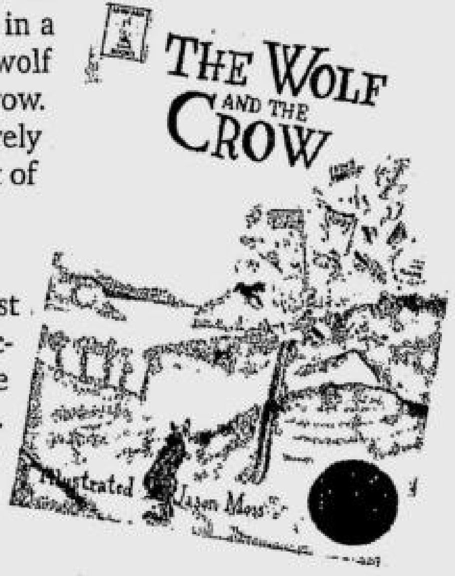
Something Different



As usual, Jason tried to put something different into each fable. My favorite was **"The Ant and the Grasshopper"** done in a beautiful Chinese style. In some pages, he turned the ant and the grasshopper into calligraphy crawling around the pages. I wonder how a cockroach in calligraphy looks like?

"The Crane and the Peacock" is done with a touch of theater. Ballet served as inspiration for the drawings of the figures. Very lovely! Makes me want to stretch out in a graceful pirouette—oops! Hard to do on six legs. Maybe I should stick to reading.

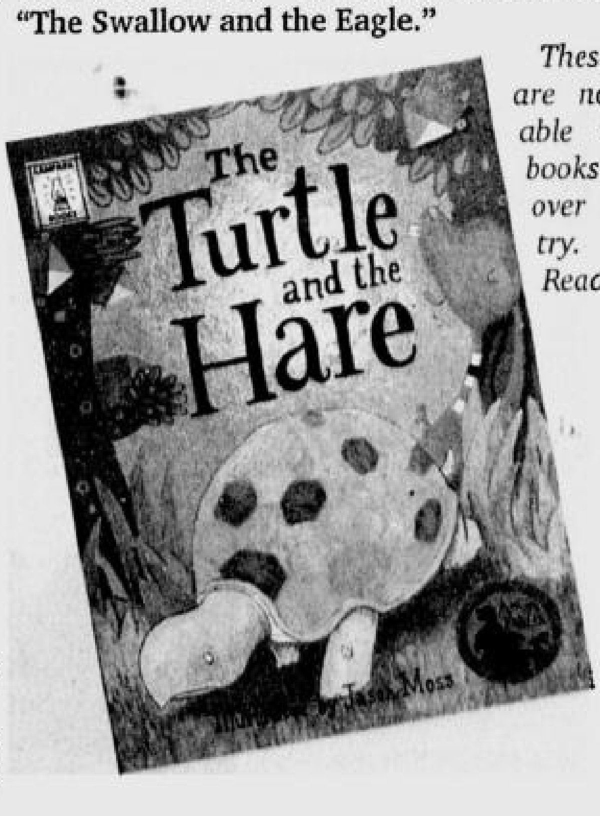
Jason says his favorite is **"The Wolf and the Crow."** Torn-up pieces of music become leaves for the trees. Jewelry in a balloon show the wolf flattering the crow. It's very creatively done, like the rest of the collection.



Crafts Page

What I liked best however is the activity page at the end of each book. You can make masks, stage your own ballet or make a stand-up grasshopper from ready-made cardboard cut-outs.

The other available titles in the series are **"The Turtle and the Hare," "The Mouse and the Lion,"** and **"The Swallow and the Eagle."**



These books are now available in major bookstores all over the country. Happy Reading!

Help

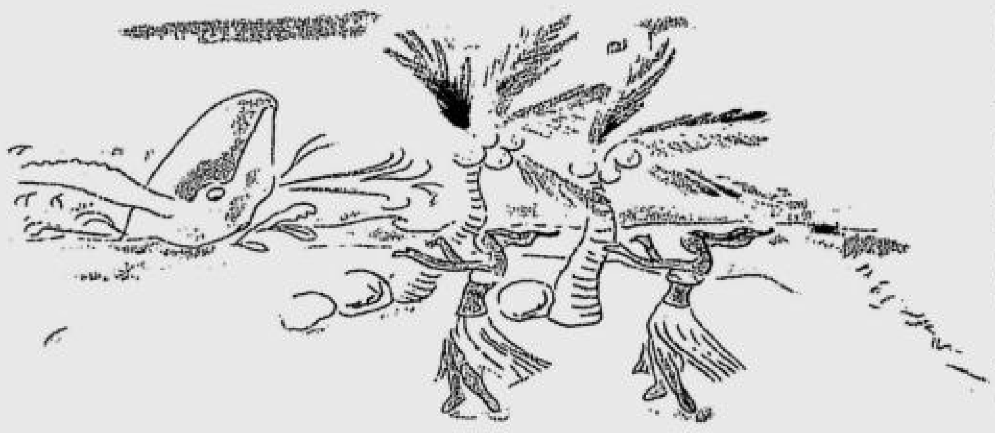
elles

The bombing of cities
They all happened because of hatred
Stop the hatred
And most of these horrible killings
will stop.

So we can be happy all over again.
Stop the war.

e likes fencing and baseball and would like about the environment and the plants and ce. He enjoys writing because it allows him

cefully with each other. He thinks that since we humans live without war.



The Best Island in the World

By Megan Maquera

It's a place where the palm trees
sway,
and you feel a cold relaxing
breeze.
This is where the beach is,
where you feel the water spray.
Here is where the whales will
swim,
Spouting water here and there.

People surf around this place,
Splashing water everywhere.
Hula dancers over here,
Wearing flowers in their hair.
This is where happiness really
is,
Right here, on the best island
in the world.

***Megan** is a Grade 5 student of International School Manila. Since she was born in Anaheim, California near Disneyland, her mom claims Megan's doctors were Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and Minnie Mouse. She plays tennis, swims, and plays the flute—but loves to read.*

With a Smile

Nadia, 12, triumphs over diabetes with a healthy lifestyle

By Margaux Ortiz

SOME people might think that 12-year-old Nadia Leetian has unusual food preferences. Other kids say they love chocolates and ice cream. Nadia smilingly quips that fish is her favorite.

"I know most kids my age would disagree, but I find fish very delicious," says the 6th-grader from Grace Christian High School in Metro Manila. "Besides, I'm used to eating fish and other nutritious food... I have diabetes."

Nadia explains that diabetes is a disease in which sugar and starch are not absorbed by the body.

"That's why aside from watching my food intake, I also have to be injected with insulin twice a day," she adds. Insulin is a hormone that regulates the amount of glucose in the body, the lack of which causes the disease.

Brave Kid

She also regularly pricks her own finger with the help of her *yaya* to check her blood sugar level, a "feat" that would normally make other kids squeamish.

"My blood sugar should constantly be below 100 and not reach 300, or else I would pass out," she relates.

Nadia's family discovered that she had diabetes when she was turning 4. Her blood sugar level was alarmingly high that she nearly slipped into a coma.

Since then, Nadia shares, life hasn't been the same in the Leetian household. Her "now health buff" parents always make sure that everyone in the family eats right.

"Diabetes is a lifetime disease," Nadia relates. "We diabetics have to take care of ourselves because the disease can be scary and life-threatening if we don't."

Normal Life

Nadia says that sweets are a big no-no. Nadia also has to exercise regularly to keep healthy.

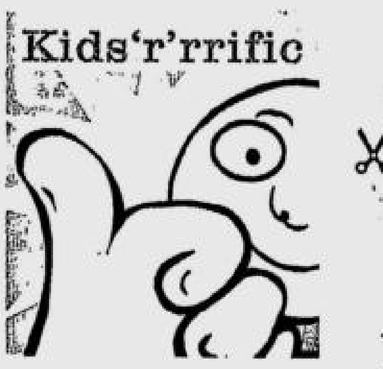
But despite her disease, Nadia does not feel deprived of anything.

"I can still do whatever I want to do," she smiles. "I can still dance hip-hop, hang out and laugh around with my friends in school."

In fact, Nadia does a very good job of having a normal life like the other kids that her classmates and friends often forget that she has diabetes.

"They say I cope with diabetes with a smile," she says. "Which is what I really do so I won't miss out on life.

MAYBE excess sugar transfers to her smile because Nadia's disposition is extra sweet. ROGER CARPIO



Kids'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:______________________

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ______________________

and studies at ______________________

Her/his contact number is: ______

Sender's Name: ______________

Sender's Age & School:__________

Sender's Address: ______________

Sender's Contact No. __________

Learning with Mr. C

By Eline Santos

Wouldn't you want to learn music from the great Ryan Cayabyab?

Mr. C not only makes beautiful music, he teaches people to do the same. Together with his former students, he put up the Ryan Cayabyab Music Studio in 1985.

Two of the classes they offer for kids are the Children's Instrumental Ensemble and the Children's Chorus Class.

All the teachers at the studio were his students at University of the Philippines where he taught until recently, including his wife Emelina.

"It's fun. Teaching is fun. It's being able to discover how continuously talented young people are. The talent never runs out!" says Mr. C, who is currently executive and artistic director of the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

"For me it's great to teach music because you see how your students progress."

He adds that teaching reinforces his idealism. "The idealism of your students rub off on you *kasi*."

Mr. C likes to talk about his life experiences with his students.

"When I tell them these little stories, they become more interested. And I tell them how what we are studying is related to real life."

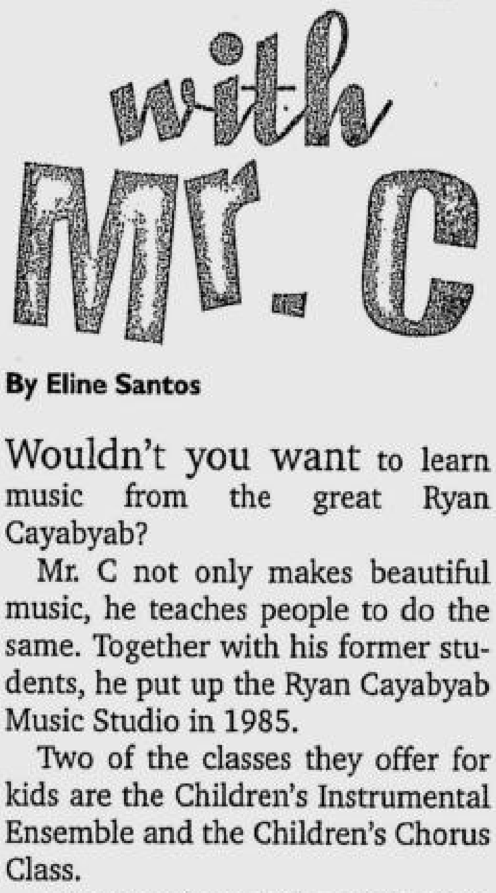
If Mr. C was not a musician he might have been an accountant. That's because his opera-singing mom didn't want any of her kids to follow in her footsteps.

"She was speaking from experience. The life of a musician is difficult."

But as for him, he's letting his kids and his students do what they love most to do.

"I just realize that whatever course, whatever you want to do with your life, if that is something that you REALLY like to do and you are happy doing it, *wala ka nang ibang hahanapin pa* (you won't ask for more)."

RYAN takes over the Children's Chorus Class for a while. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



MR. C'S ADVICE: follow your passion, everything else will come.

THE Cayabyab family growing together and living together. Daughter Christina and son Antonio have singing groups in their schools, while his wife Emmy teaches at the studio. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.

He/She is ________ years old and is my ______________.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a______________.

Give him/her a call at ________ or send him/her an e-mail at ______________

By the way, I'm ______________

I'm________ years old.

My address is______________

You may call me at______________

Legaspi Dreaming

(from page 2)

I am a Bicolano. My blood is similar to the rest of the Bicolanos that I encounter everyday. My breath smells of the spicy dishes served in almost every dining table of the region. I speak the language of a fluent tongue that can communicate several languages. Our smile reigns above all beauty in the country for "magayon" we are known to be.

People look forward to seeing our place and those who have seen it admire my hometown. Just recently, thousands of people came to visit our month-long "Magayon Festival" and the fascinating huge whale-sharks, to name a few. Who would not be enthralled with such an experience of viewing majestic Mayon, embracing such gigantic and lovable "Butanding," relishing such gastronomic spicy and hot food and feeling the warmth of the people?

Bicol is composed of 6 united provinces: Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Masbate. Each province plays a part in enriching the region and is as important as each piece in a puzzle. My hometown may not have all the lights of Metro Manila but it has rich culture with a whip of modernization that any Bicolano can be proud of.

As I write my article, I hear a Bicolano shout, "*Maurag ako*!" with deep pride as he starts his day with a big smile. It is dawn and I'm glad I've started my day contributing pride to my hometown. Bicol is not just a mere region in the Philippines. It can show off the same amount of beauty as all the other regions in the Philippines if not more. Once again, I am a Bicolano who looks out from her window seeing the beauty of her hometown. How about you? What do you see when you look out from your window?

My Secret Subic Forest

(from page 2)

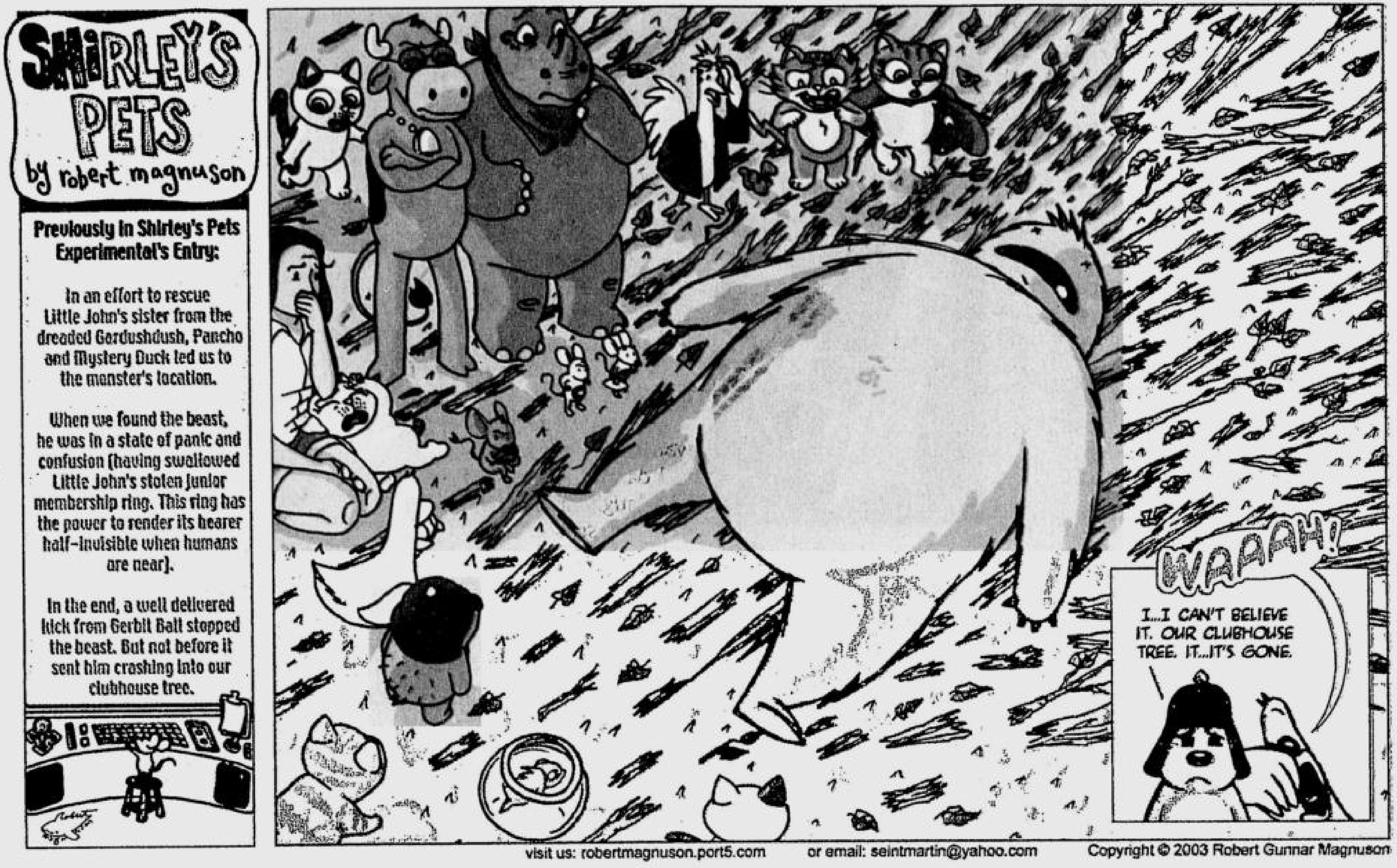
trees in a park, I'm referring to the real deal...a genuine virgin forest at the Subic Freeport. Now, don't say, "If I believed that, I believe in the tooth fairy." Those of you who had traveled to Subic would understand what I am talking about. Anyway, since the forest was just 20 meters from our house, we get to see lots of monkeys, snakes and funny-colored birds all the time. Cool, huh? Yeah!

The only thing is it gets really eerie whenever there was a brownout or a storm going on. When that happens... ooooh, it's like a scene from a horror movie. Makes you shiver of fright. Okay, so that's the neighborhood.

Next, I would like to describe the places we used to visit. There was the Yacht Club. We liked it because of its swimming pools. It's really cool; it has four pools—one kiddie pool with mascots floating on it, another pool with lots of bubbles coming out from the bottom and another with two winding slides. There was even a pool where you could play water basketball. Pools for everybody! I love swimming.

There were also biking lanes, a skating rink, so many playgrounds, a go-kart racing track, a pond for boating, kayaking, fishing areas, and also a mini golf place. The mini-golf was nice because it was near the clean bay. We had a party there once when my *ate* had her birthday. Beaches are also a nice place to hang out.

There's so much more I could say about my special hometown. But by now, I think you all will nod your head in agreement when I say that if all the towns in the Philippines were like mine, Filipinos will not leave our country anymore to go to the United States.


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnuson
WAAAH!
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. OUR CLUBHOUSE TREE. IT...IT'S GONE.

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In an effort to rescue Little John's sister from the dreaded Gordushdush, Pancho and Mystery Duck led us to the monster's location.

When we found the beast, he was in a state of panic and confusion (having swallowed Little John's stolen junior membership ring. This ring has the power to render its bearer half-invisible when humans are near).

In the end, a well delivered kick from Gerbil Ball stopped the beast. But not before it sent him crashing into our clubhouse tree.

visit us: robertmagnuson.port5.com or email: seintmartin@yahoo.com

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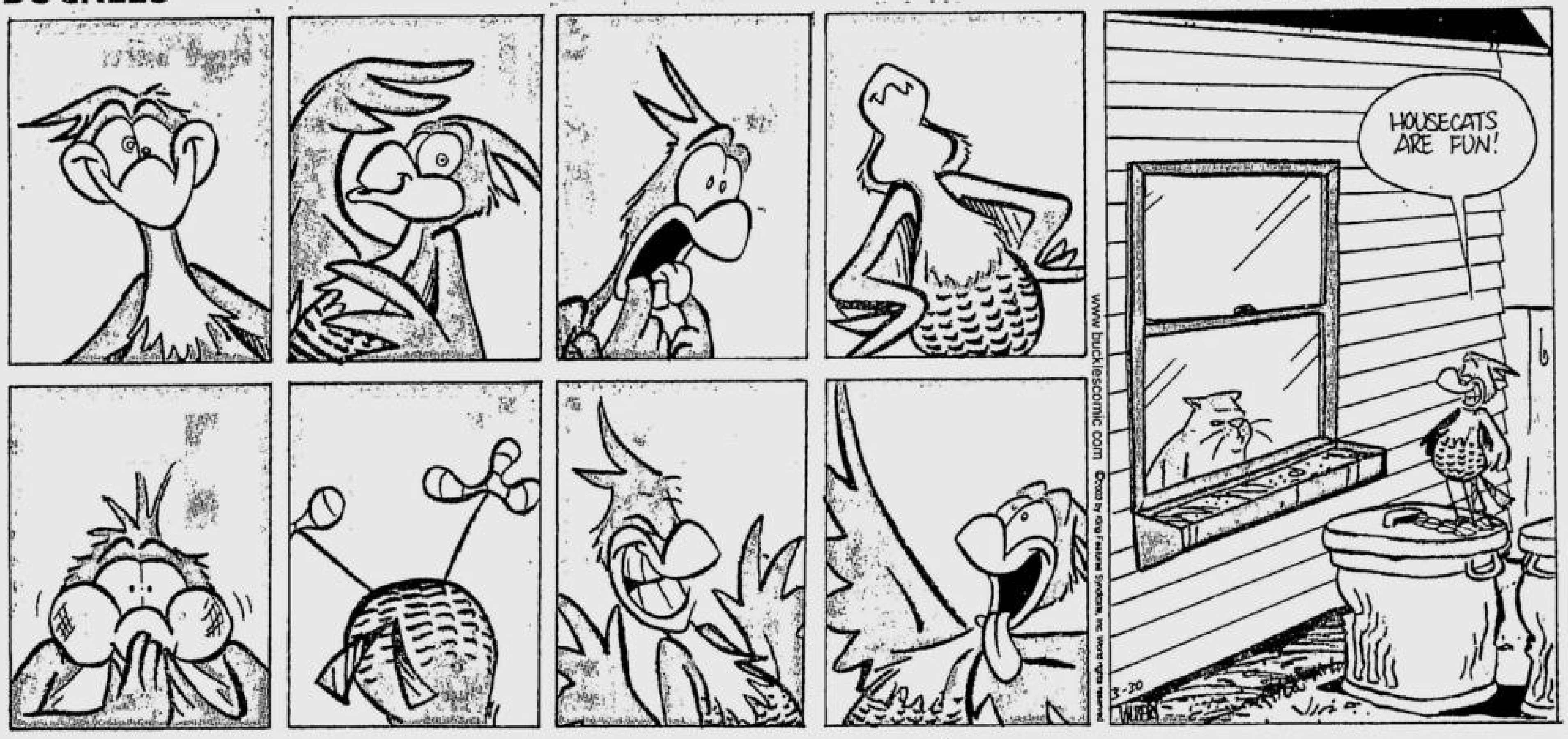
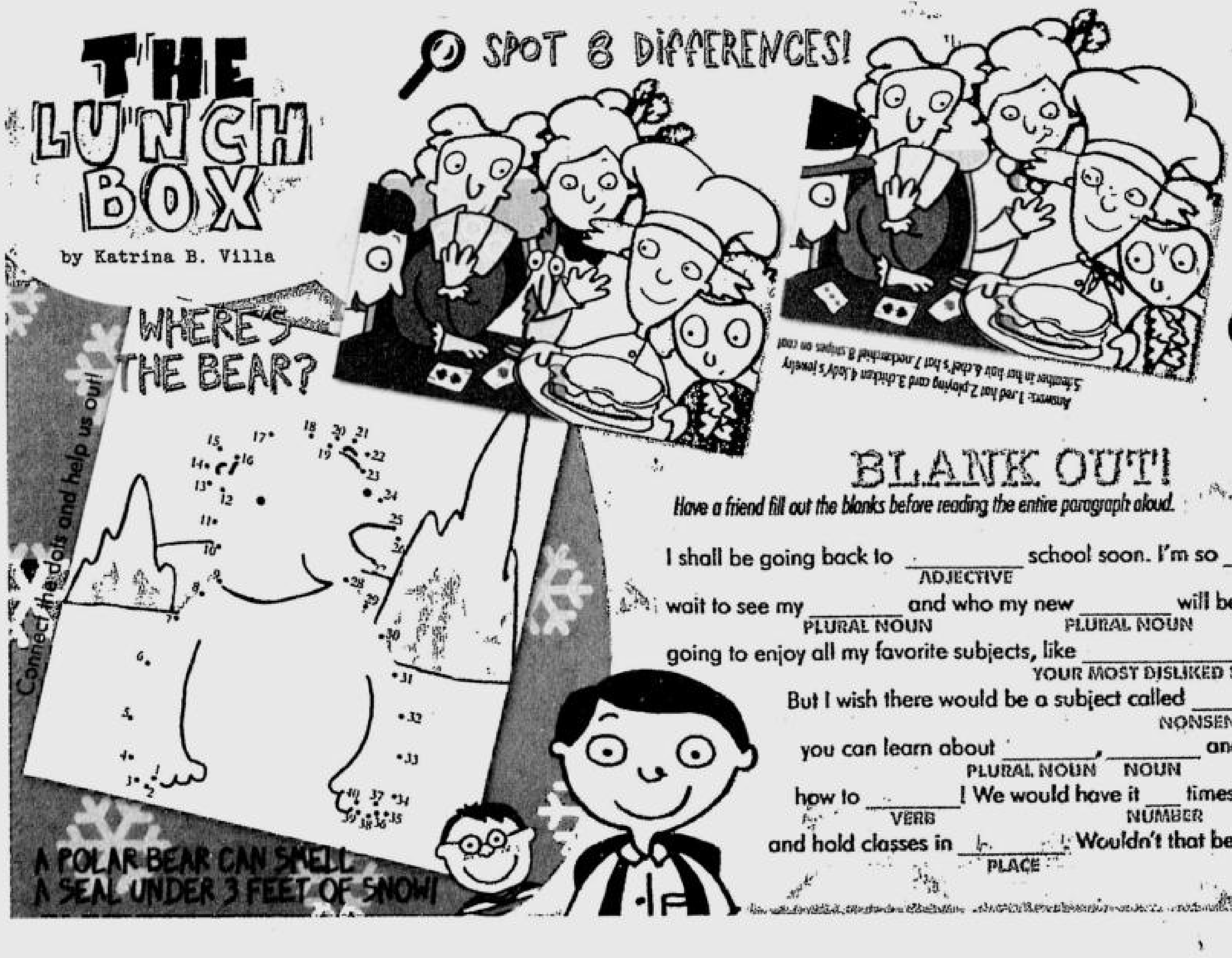
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa


SPOT 8 DIFFERENCES!
WHERE'S THE BEAR?
Connect the dots and help us out!
A POLAR BEAR CAN SMELL A SEAL UNDER 3 FEET OF SNOW!
Answers: 1. red hat 2. playing card 3. chicken 4. lady's jewelry 5. feather in her hair 6. chef's hat 7. neckerchief 8. stripes on coat

It is believed that the first sandwich was created in 1762. John Montagu, the Earl of Sandwich, asked for meat to be placed between slices of bread so that he could eat while playing cards.

SANDWICH IS THE NAME OF A TOWN IN ENGLAND.

BLANK OUT!

Have a friend fill out the blanks before reading the entire paragraph aloud.

I shall be going back to ________ (ADJECTIVE) school soon. I'm so ________ (ADJECTIVE)! I can't wait to see my ________ (PLURAL NOUN) and who my new ________ (PLURAL NOUN) will be. And I know I am going to enjoy all my favorite subjects, like ________________ (YOUR MOST DISLIKED SUBJECT), and ________ (NOUN). But I wish there would be a subject called ________ (NONSENSE WORD), where you can learn about ________ (PLURAL NOUN), ________ (NOUN) and even how to ________ (VERB)! We would have it ___ (NUMBER) times a week and hold classes in ________ (PLACE). Wouldn't that be just ______ (ADJECTIVE)?

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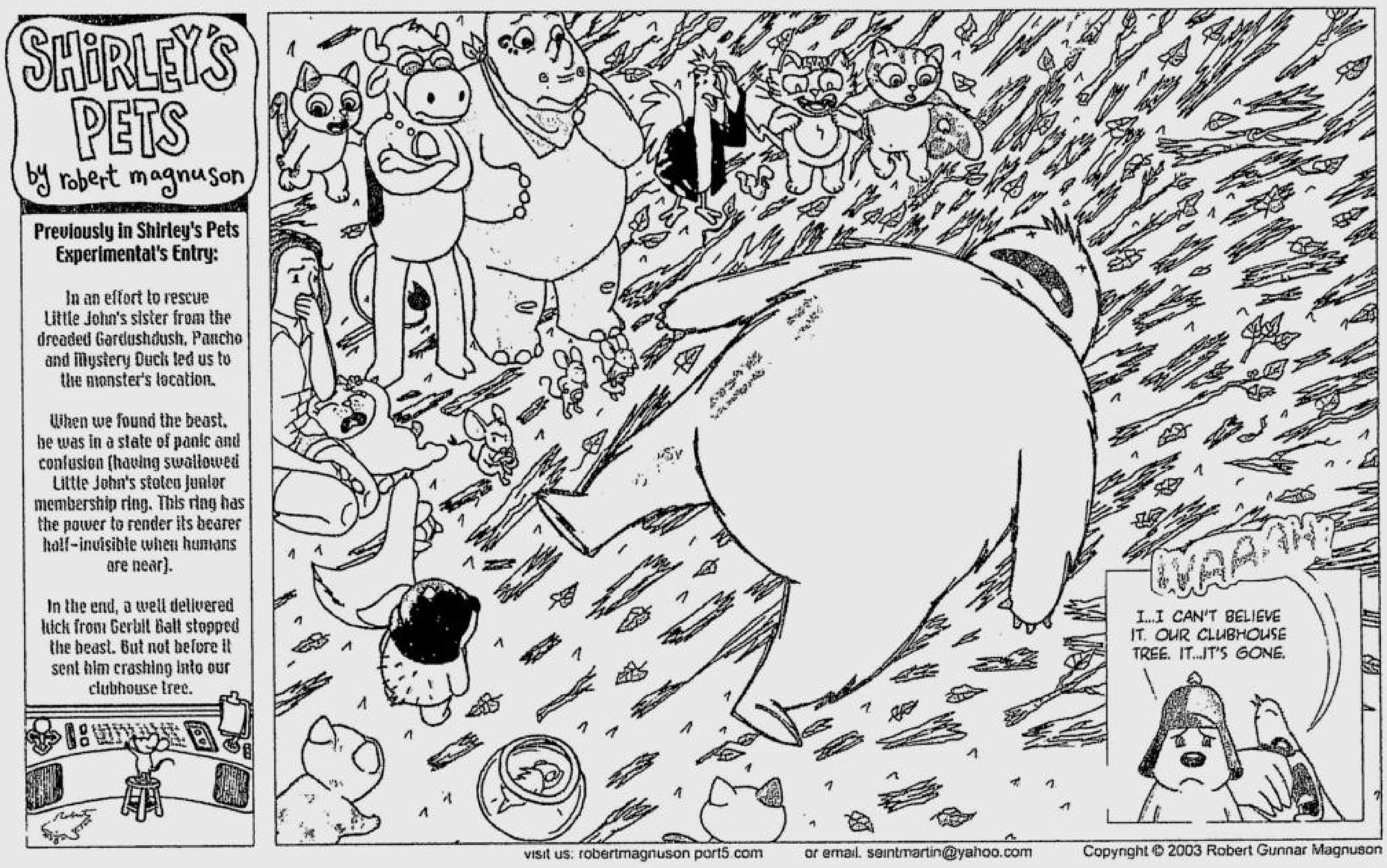
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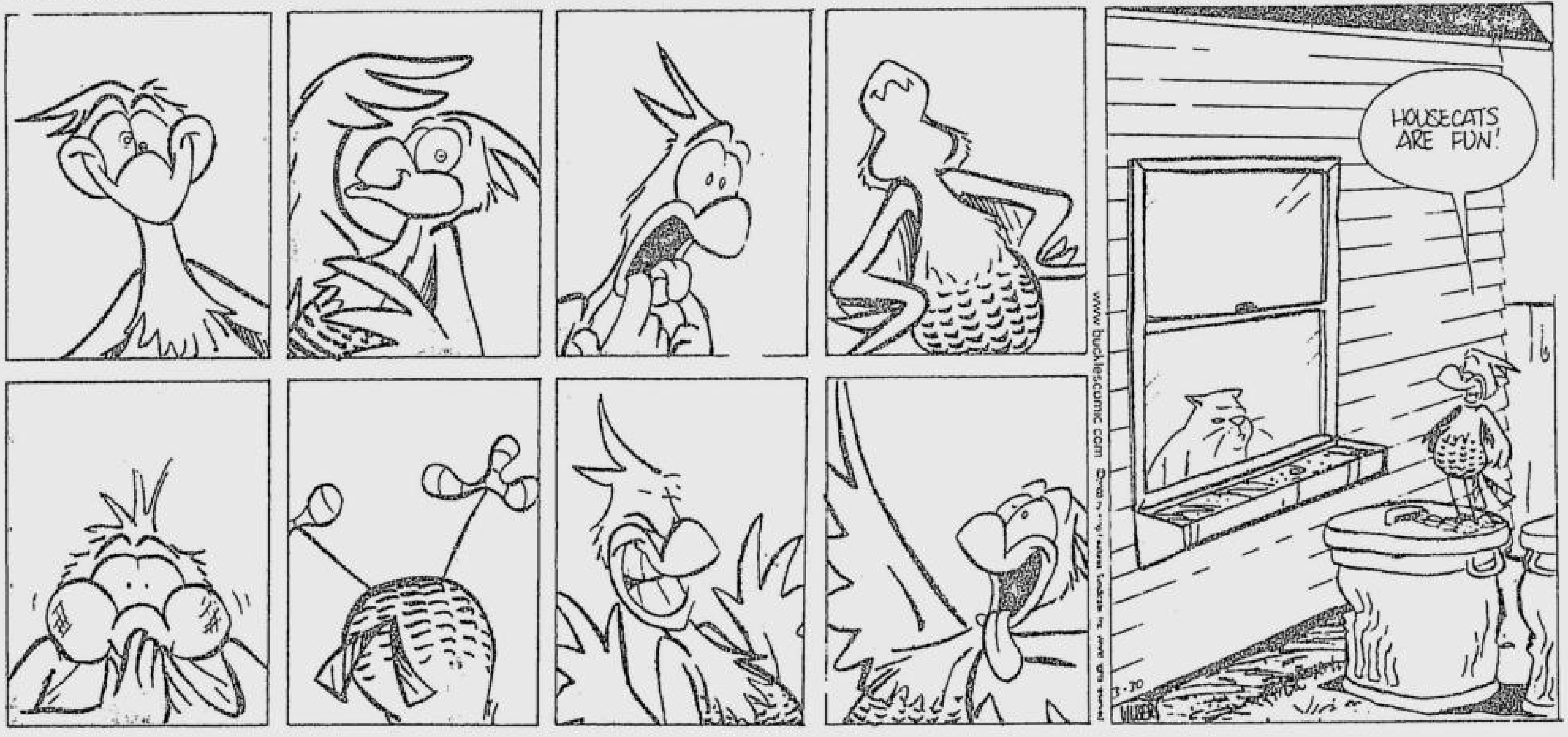

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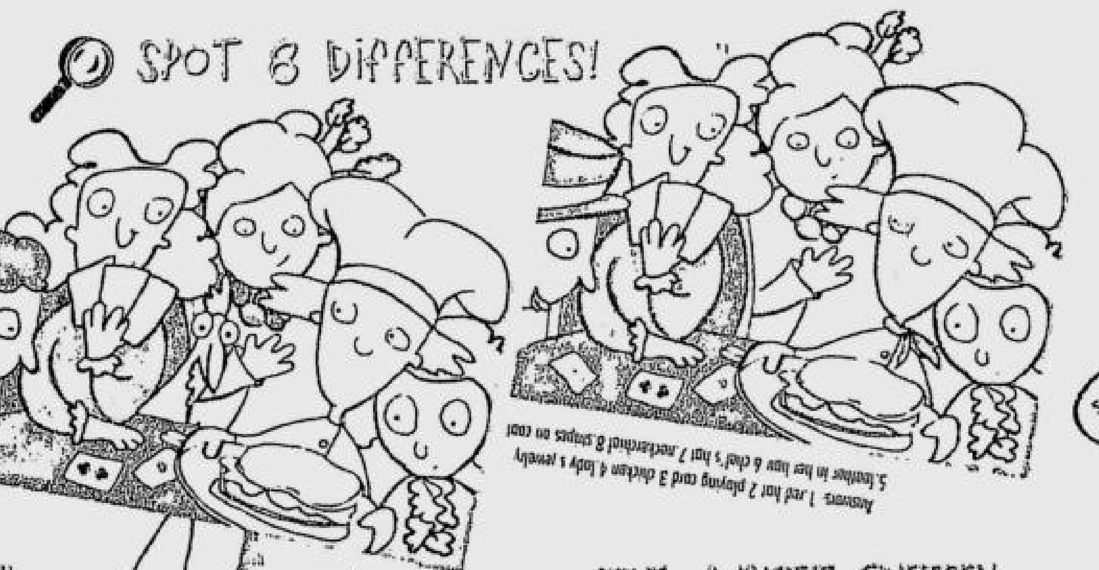
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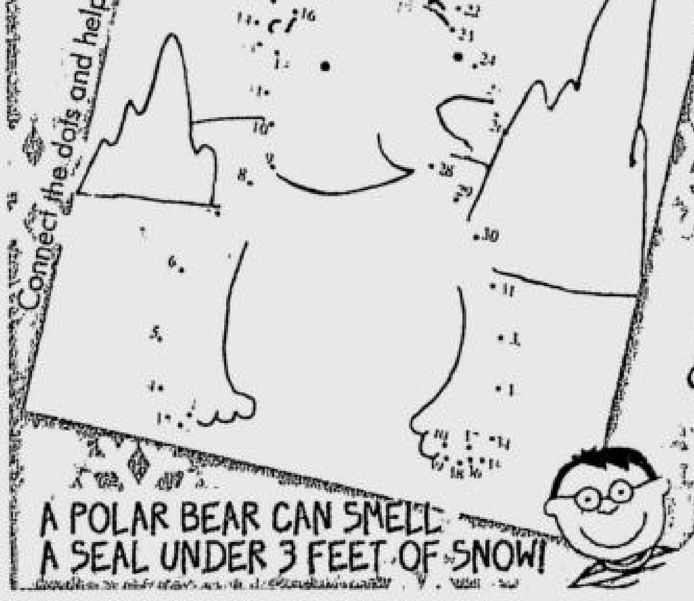

A POLAR BEAR CAN SMELL A SEAL UNDER 3 FEET OF SNOW!

BLANK OUT!

Have a friend fill out the blanks before reading the entire paragraph aloud.

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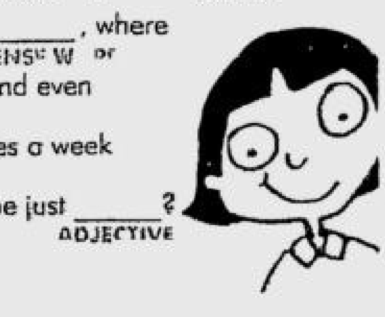

SANDWICH IS THE NAME OF A TOWN IN ENGLAND.

The baon for kids that not only tastes good, it's good for them! Zest-O Choc-O & Zest-O Milk-O!

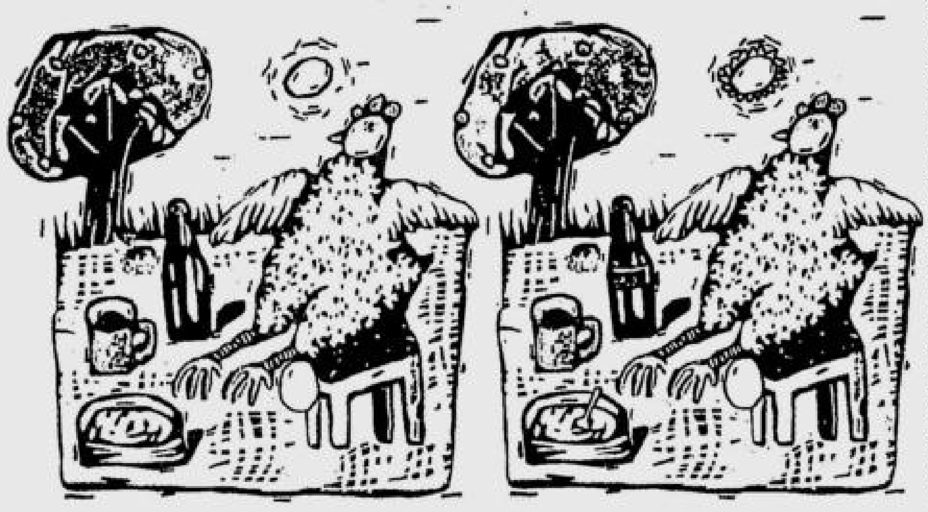
It's a challenge to provide your kids with school baon that they like, but which also gives them good nutrition. Now they can have both great taste and good health with Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O, delicious and nutritious dairy drinks that are the best baon for bright boys and girls! Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink combines the great taste of chocolate with the creaminess of milk, while Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk captures the rich goodness and nutrition of full cream. Both have calcium and essential vitamins and minerals that make your kids stronger, smarter and healthier! Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O are available in the convenient 200ml Steri-Pack and in the new affordable 125ml Tetrawedge pack, so it can easily fit in school bags and lunchboxes.

Rich in Vitamins A.B.D. Calcium Protein & Minerals
ZEST-O
Choc-O
CHOCOLATE MILK DRINK
Milk Made Even Better
200mL
Milk-O
FULL CREAM MILK

ZEST-O
Choc-O & Milk-O
FUN PAGE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

There are 5 things different. Can you find them all?

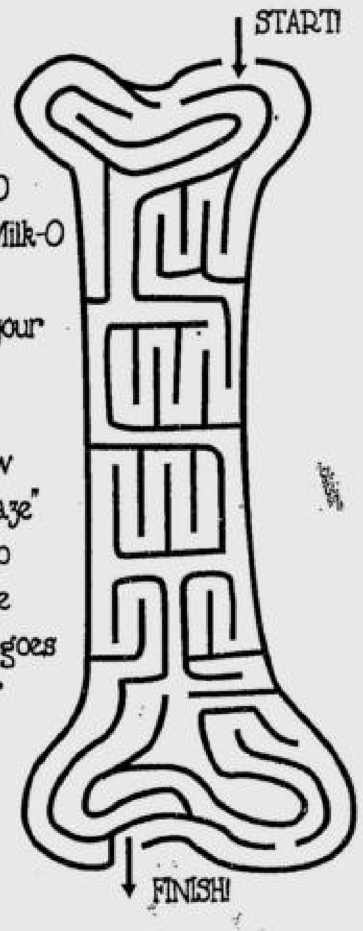


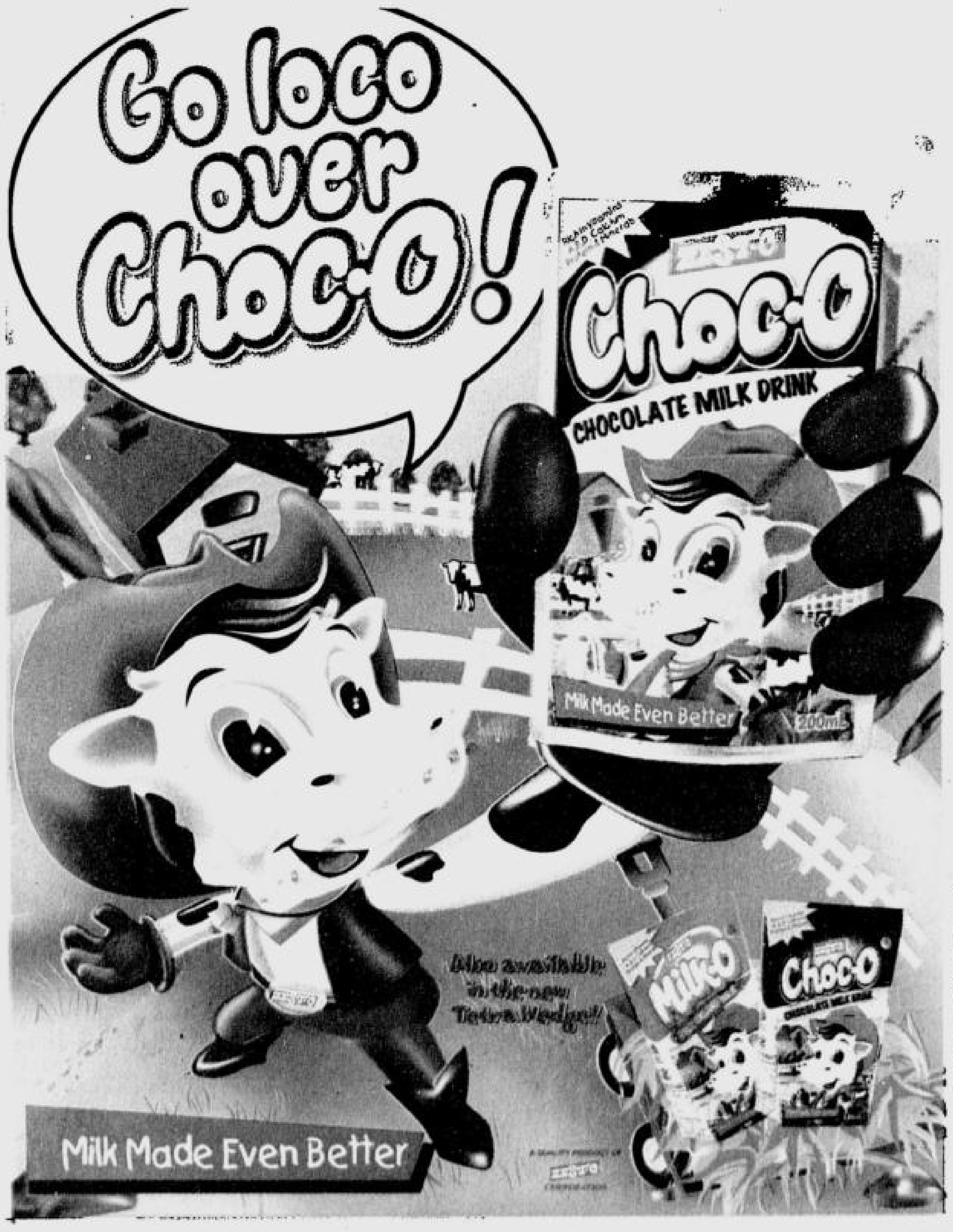
ANSWERS: 1. BOTTLE LABEL 2. SPOON 3. SUN 4. COW 5. FRUIT

Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O are made from pure cow's milk, so it's rich in calcium and other vitamins and minerals to make your bones strong and your mind sharp! A drink of milk everyday also keeps you healthy and protects you from sickness! So milk not only tastes good, it's also good for your body!

THE BONE ZONE

Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O have calcium, which helps your bones stay strong and healthy. Follow this "bone maze" from start to finish and see how calcium goes through your bones!


START!
FINISH!


Go loco over Choc-O!
ZEST-O
Choc-O
CHOCOLATE MILK DRINK
Milk Made Even Better
200mL
Also available in the new TetraWedge!!
Milk-O
Choc-O
Milk Made Even Better
A QUALITY PRODUCT OF ZEST-O CORPORATION

BABY STEPS

Match the baby animals to what they will become when they grow up.

PUPPY
KITTEN
CALF
PONY
BUNNY
PIGLET

HORSE
RABBIT
PIG
DOG
COW
CAT

ANSWERS: PUPPY-DOG; KITTEN-CAT; CALF-COW; PONY-HORSE; BUNNY-RABBIT; PIGLET-PIG

The newest way for kids to enjoy milk & nutrition!

Now there's a new way to enjoy your Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O! Aside from the original 200 ml Steri-Pack, You can now have Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink and Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk in the new 125 ml Tetrawedge! Made for younger kids, Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O in Tetrawedge features a smaller size at a more affordable price, which makes it just right for them. And with its easy-to-carry design and quick straw entry, Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O in Tetrawedge makes the perfect baon for school!

Zest-O Choc-O and Zest-O Milk-O combines the great taste of chocolate and milk with the nutrition kids need to stay strong, active and healthy!

Milk is good for you!

Ever wonder why milk is nature's baby food? That's because for newborns, milk is the all-in-one liquid diet, providing their bodies with everything they need to grow bigger, stronger and healthier. Now as we grow older, we need to eat more kinds of food, but milk still remains as one of the best sources of nutrition and nourishment for us. Just one glass of milk a day can do a lot of good for a growing child. And to make sure your child gets their requirement of milk, give them Zest-O Choc-O Chocolate Milk Drink and Zest-O Milk-O Full Cream Milk, delicious and nutritious dairy drinks that not only tastes great, but has calcium as well as vitamins and minerals that help them grow strong, active and healthy! Available in 200ml Steri-Pack and in the new baon-size 125ml Tetrawedge!